



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio pauses during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Sept. 25, 2015. In a stunning move, Boehner informed fellow Republicans on Friday that he would resign from Congress at the end of October.
(AP Photo/Steve Helber)
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Pope Francis mingles with high and low in New York visit

NICOLE WINFIELD

DAVID CRARY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sweeping through the landmarks of America's biggest city, Pope Francis on Friday offered comfort to 9/11 victims' families at ground zero, warnings to world leaders at the United Nations and encouragement to schoolchildren in Harlem as he mixed the high and low ministry so characteristic of his papacy.

In the early evening, he led a jubilant parade through Central Park past a crowd of about 80,000 and celebrated Mass at Madison Square Garden, usually the site of basketball games and rock concerts but this time the scene of a solemn service celebrating New York in all its diversity.



Pope Francis arrives to celebrate Mass at Madison Square Garden, Friday, Sept. 25, 2015, in New York.

(AP Photo/Julie Jacobson, Pool)

"Living in a big city is not always easy," Francis told 18,000 people at the Garden, easily one of the most respectful crowds the arena has ever seen. "Yet big cities are a reminder of the hidden riches present in our world in the diversity of its

cultures, traditions and historical experiences." Francis' itinerary for his only full day in New York was packed with contrasts befitting a head of state dubbed the "slum pope" for his devotion to the poor. He moved from the corri-

dors of power to the grit of the projects with lush Central Park in between.

He drew huge, adoring crowds while also managing to connect one-on-one with countless New Yorkers, despite extraordinarily tight security that closed off many streets and kept most spectators behind police barricades.

"As he passed by, you passed a cool, refreshing peace, as if he were spreading a huge blanket of peace through the crowd," Ruth Smart of Brooklyn said of the procession in Central Park. "Even though the crowd exploded in a roar, it was pure joy."

On Saturday morning, he flies to Philadelphia for a big Vatican-sponsored rally for Catholic families. As many as 1 million people are expected for the closing Mass on Sunday, the last day of Francis' six-day, three-city visit to the U.S.

In his speech at the U.N., the pope decried the destruction of the environment through a "selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity."

The environment itself has rights, and mankind has no authority to abuse them, said Francis, who hopes to spur concrete commitments at the upcoming climate-change negotiations in Paris. He demanded immediate access for the world's poor to adequate food, water and housing, saying they have the right to lodging, labor and land. Francis' speech, delivered in his native Spanish, received repeated rounds of applause from an audience that included German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Bill and Melinda Gates, and Nobel peace laureate Malala Yousefzai, the young Pakistani activist shot and gravely wounded by the Taliban. The ovations contrasted sharply with the moment of silent prayer during the pope's visit later in the day to ground zero for an interfaith tribute to the Sept. 11 victims.

After praying before the waterfall pools that mark the spot where the twin towers once stood, Francis

met with relatives of the 3,000 victims whose names are inscribed on the water's edge.

Among those on hand was Monica Iken-Murphy, whose husband, bond trader Michael Patrick Iken, died in one of the towers.

"This is where loved ones lost their lives ... and this is the way we are going to honor them by having someone who is holy, closest to God, Pope Francis, come here and bless this site," Iken-Murphy said. "I couldn't be prouder to share this memorial and museum with him."

Francis' afternoon schedule reflected the penchant of the "people's pope" for engaging with the public, starting with a visit to Our Lady Queen of Angels School, set amid public housing in the heavily Hispanic neighborhood of East Harlem.

After the morning's deadly serious activities, the 78-year-old pope clearly perked up when he got to the Catholic school. He joked around with the children, chatted happily with them in Spanish, shook hands and posed for a few selfies. The pope — who says he hasn't watched TV in decades and doesn't know how to work a computer — even got a lesson in how to use a touchscreen from fourth-grader Kayla Osborne, 8.

The crowd in the gym included about 150 immigrants and refugees, some of them in the U.S. illegally. In his remarks, Francis recalled the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, saying: "His dream was that many children like you could get an education. It is beautiful to have dreams and to be able to fight for them."

About a half-hour before the popemobile passed through Central Park, a rainbow suddenly appeared above the crowd, which erupted in joyous "Oooohs!" and "Ahhhhhs!" Francis smiled as he rode slowly in his open-sided Jeep past a cheering, shrieking crowd and a sea of arms holding cellphones aloft. □

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Speaker Boehner stuns Congress, Announces Resignation

ERICA WERNER

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) —

House Speaker John Boehner plunged Congress into deeper turmoil on Friday, abruptly announcing his resignation and shutting down a conservative tea party drive to depose the nation's highest-ranking Republican but opening up fresh troubles for the party.

The 13-term Ohio lawmaker, second in line to the presidency, shocked his rank-and-file when he told them of his plans in an emotional closed-door meeting. He said he would step down from the speaker's job he's held for nearly five years, and from Congress, at the end of October.

One important result: A government shutdown threatened for next week is all but sure to be averted — but only for now. A new December deadline and a potentially market-rattling fight over the government's borrowing limit still lie ahead.

Boehner's announcement came one day after a high point of his congressional career, a historic speech by Pope Francis to Congress at the speaker's request.

It also came before what would have been a new low: a potential floor vote to oust him as speaker, pushed by conservative, anti-tax tea partiers convinced he was capitulating in a struggle over funding of Planned Parenthood, a non-profit abortion provider, that threatened a government shutdown next Thursday. Such a formal challenge against a speaker has not been used in the House for over 100 years.

On Friday, an upbeat Boehner declared that he'd de-

cided to spare the House, and himself, the chaos such a vote would bring.

"It's become clear to me that this prolonged leadership turmoil would do irreparable harm to the institution," he said.

Even as he announced his plans to leave, Boehner told lawmakers they could expect to vote next week on legislation to fund the government through Dec. 11 with Planned Parenthood funding intact, a bill likely to pass with Democratic help, notwithstanding conservative complaints. So no shutdown for now. But Boehner will leave behind a stack of other problems, including the new December funding deadline, a crucial highway bill, and the annual battle over the federal borrowing limit.

And it's not clear that the next speaker will have any easier time taming the unruly tea party lawmakers who forced Boehner out despite the largest Republican majority in 84 years, or making the deals with the White House and Senate Republicans that Boehner habitually cut to keep the gears of government running. Although a disorderly leadership race is certain for some of the top jobs, the likeliest contender to replace Boehner is his current No. 2, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California, whom Boehner endorsed on Friday, saying he "would make an excellent speaker."

After Boehner's announcement, President Barack Obama praised him as "a good man" and a patriot. "Maybe most importantly, he's somebody who understands that in government and governance, you don't get 100 percent of what you want," the president said. □



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Sept. 25, 2015. In a stunning move, Boehner informed fellow Republicans on Friday that he would resign from Congress at the end of October, stepping aside in the face of hardline conservative opposition that threatened an institutional crisis.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

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Obama, China's Xi agree to curb economic cyberspying

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Friday laid out a fresh threat of sanctions for economic espionage emanating from China, even as he and President Xi Jinping pledged their countries would not conduct or support such hacking.

"The question now is: Are words followed by action?"

Obama said, indicating his skepticism about Chinese assurances on the issue as he stood alongside Xi at a White House news conference. Obama's wariness underscored deep U.S. concerns about what officials say is China's massive cyber campaign to steal trade secrets and intellectual property from American companies. While China has publicly denied being behind such activities,



President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping arrive for their joint news conference, Friday, Sept. 25, 2015, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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U.S. officials say their counterparts in Beijing have begun to take the matter more seriously, as well as the potential impact on ties with Washington.

"Confrontation and friction are not the right choice for both sides," Xi said, speaking through an interpreter. The spying tensions cast a shadow over Xi's state visit to Washington, a grand affair complete with a formal welcome ceremony and a black-tie dinner. Obama faced criticism from some Republicans for honoring China with a state visit given the cyber concerns, as well as U.S. worries about Beijing's human rights abuses and assertive posture in territorial disputes in the East and South China Seas. While the latter issues were discussed during Obama and Xi's lengthy talks, no discernable progress was made.

Xi said the Chinese have "the right to uphold our own sovereignty" in the South

China Sea, where Beijing has alarmed its neighbors with a major campaign of artificial island-building. China has reclaimed about 3,000 acres of land in the past year-and-a-half by dredging sand from the ocean bed.

On human rights, long a divisive issue between the U.S. and China, Xi made no commitments, saying only that countries must have the right "to choose their own development independently."

Obama and Xi did herald progress on climate change, one of the few areas of bilateral cooperation that has proceeded smoothly in recent months, largely because Beijing has struggled to contain heavy air, water and soil pollution that has destroyed farmland, sent cancer rates soaring and left its cities cloaked in dense smog.

In conjunction with the state visit, Xi announced a blueprint for a nationwide

cap-and-trade system beginning in 2017 that would cover highly polluting sectors ranging from power generation to papermaking. China also said it will commit \$3.1 billion to help developing countries reduce carbon emissions. U.S. officials say that while they regularly hack Chinese networks for espionage purposes, they don't steal corporate secrets and hand them to American companies. Chinese officials traditionally have viewed that distinction as meaningless, saying that national security and economic security are inextricably linked.

Ahead of Xi's visit to Washington, the U.S. administration had been preparing economic sanctions in retaliation for Chinese cybertheft. However, officials decided to hold off on the penalties in hopes that an accord like the one announced Friday could be reached. □

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'I believe in the Bible': Trump courts Christian right

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican presidential front-runner and billionaire businessman Donald Trump is increasingly courting a wing of the Republican Party that might seem antithetical to his brand: evangelical Christians.

After initially declining the invitation, Trump spoke Friday in front of several hundred social conservative leaders at the Family Research Council's Values Voter Summit in Washington. He joined a speaking program that includes Republican rivals with long records of dedication to religious causes — among them, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Baptist pastor, and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who wants his colleagues to risk a government shutdown to block funding to the women's health services provider Planned Parenthood.

Trump brought his Bible along and briefly addressed his faith between attacks on his rivals and Democrats.

"I believe in God. I believe

in the Bible. I'm a Christian," he said. He ended by bemoaning the increased use of the term

In many ways, Trump's brand as the bombastic, thrice-married billionaire showman would seem an

more time calling into Sunday morning talk shows than attending church. Trump likes to boast about

said at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa, that he has never asked God for forgiveness and described Communion as "when I drink my little wine, which is about the only wine I drink, and have my little cracker."

"I love them. They love me," Trump, a Presbyterian, said of evangelicals last month in Greenville, South Carolina. "I love the evangelicals, and it's really shown in the polls." Some evangelical leaders are skeptical. Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, said Trump's candidacy is fundamentally opposed to Christian values. "When one looks at the very serious moral character questions, from Trump's involvement in the casino gambling industry all the way through to his attitude toward women, Donald Trump is the embodiment of everything that evangelical Christians have been standing against in American culture," he said. □



Republican presidential candidate, businessman Donald Trump, speaks during the Values Voter Summit, held by the Family Research Council Action, Friday, Sept. 25, 2015, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

"Happy Holidays" in place of "Merry Christmas" as a sign that Christianity is under attack. As president, he said, he'd reverse the trend.

ill-fit among religious conservatives. He once held a reputation as a womanizing playboy, previously supported abortion rights and appears to spend

the Bible being his favorite book, but he has refused to quote his favorite biblical verse when asked what it was. He raised eyebrows in June when he

Biden hailed by gay rights group, but Clinton has head start

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden will have a prime perch to appeal to gay voters when he headlines a glitzy national gala. Yet it may be too late to win over influential gay Democrats already committed to Hillary Rodham Clinton should he join the 2016 presidential race.

At the Human Rights Campaign's sold-out soirée Oct. 3 in Washington, it's Biden who will get top billing. In a way, Clinton will be his warm-up act; she'll speak to the group's board and

staff in the morning, but won't be on stage for the star-studded dinner.

Gay and lesbian voters and their allies represent a natural base of support for Biden, who won accolades from the community by backing gay marriage ahead of the 2012 election and became the highest elected official to support what was then a highly charged political issue. President Barack Obama followed days later.

The prominent gay rights group hasn't endorsed yet in the 2016 race, but it plans to be engaged in the

primary.

Clinton, too, has a long history on gay rights, and the Human Rights Campaign praised her this week as a "tireless champion" for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people across the globe. Clinton's LGBT supporters point to a 2011 speech she gave as secretary of state fervently declaring that "gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights."

As she competes for the Democratic nomination, Clinton has actively courted gay and lesbian voters. She's featured gay cou-

ples in her advertising and raised LGBT issues at town halls.

In turn, Clinton has won financial support from many of the openly gay bundlers who raised huge sums for Obama. In interviews, half a dozen of those supporters insisted none of that support would drift to Biden.

Biden's tough task in winning over gay Clinton supporters mirrors the broader challenge awaiting him if he enters the race: Half a year into the presidential campaign, many of the Democratic Party's

top players have already placed their bets.

In Congress, Biden supported hate crime and workplace discrimination bills. He also fought legislation by then-Sen. Jesse Helms and others seen as hostile to gay rights.

Gays and lesbians form a powerful voting bloc in the U.S., and exit polls suggest they vote at higher rates than the overall population. An analysis by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law showed that 3 in 4 gay or bisexual voters backed Democrats in 2014. □

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New Joint Chiefs chairman facing war, service challenges



President Barack Obama, along with, from left, new Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., and Defense Secretary Ash Carter, applaud for retiring Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey during his Armed Forces Full Honors Retirement Ceremony for Dempsey, Friday, Sept. 25, 2015, at Fort Myer in Arlington, Va.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gen. Martin Dempsey stepped down as the U.S. military's top officer Friday, after four tumultuous years of war, budget cuts and the strains of combat on a battle-worn force.

He turned over his respon-

sibilities to Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, who is taking over at a crucial point, as tensions surge with Russia, U.S. troops wage war against militants in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, and the effort to train and equip Syrian rebels struggles to find a footing.

The transfer of responsibility

took place during an afternoon of marching bands, Irish songs, speeches and military pomp Friday, under cloudy skies at a base near Washington, with President Barack Obama and other senior defense leaders and military commanders in the audience.

Dempsey, a well-respect-

ed, combat-hardened officer, took over as Obama's top military adviser in September 2011, as the war in Afghanistan was beginning to wind down and the last U.S. troops were coming out of Iraq. At the time, one of his key concerns was the impending budget cuts, and how the military services would get leaner without harming their readiness for war.

But times rapidly changed, as he worked to help an often divided administration reach agreements on a number of contentious issues, including the pace of the military drawdown in Afghanistan, the scope of the military missions in Iraq and Syria, and the types of aid to provide Ukraine in its battle against Russian separatists.

At the same time, Dempsey also worked with the military services to combat the effects of years at war on U.S. forces, who have seen suicides and sexual assaults spike, while veterans struggle to find jobs and get the medical care

they need.

Obama praised Dempsey as a leader who was committed to insuring the military became a more versatile and responsive force. "I chose him because he had the steady hand we needed in this moment of transition -- as we tackle emerging threats and support so many of our troops as they transition to civilian life," Obama said. "But perhaps most of all, I chose Marty because he's a leader you can trust. Marty, you've always given it to me straight. I can't tell you how much I've appreciated your candor and your counsel."

Dempsey, who keeps a cigar box filled with 132 cards on his desk identifying each of the soldiers whose lives were lost under his command in Iraq, ended his remarks with the three words inscribed on the box.

"It has been my privilege to wear the cloth of our nation. To all who will continue to serve after me, I ask only this in parting," Dempsey said. "Make it matter." □

American negotiator: US ready to discuss Syria with Iran

MATTHEW LEE
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is ready to open a dialogue with Iran about the situation in Syria, the top U.S. negotiator for the Iranian nuclear deal said on Friday. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman said she expected the topic would be on the agenda when Secretary of State John Kerry meets on Saturday with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif at the United Nations.

Sherman said such a discussion would "make sense" in the context of current

developments in the Syrian conflict. However, she also noted that there is resistance to the idea within Iran, which, along with Russia, is a main supporter of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

She said the subject of Syria had been raised informally on the sidelines of the nuclear negotiations that ended in July but never in a structured way.

"We've always been open to having discussions on the margins as appropriate," she said.

"Not because we coordinate but we certainly know that there are parallel interests. There are great

political sensitivities in Iran to having these discussions and probably some limits that are real, but it is important to engage to the extent that we can."

Kerry and Zarif are also expected to discuss the implementation of the nuclear agreement hashed out between Iran, the United States and five other world powers.

The administration has long called unsuccessfully for Iran and Russia to end their support for Assad. In recent weeks Russia, in particular, has built up its military presence in the country. That will be a major topic of discussion when Kerry

meets with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Sunday in New York, a day before President Barack Obama holds talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

U.S. officials say they are not certain of Russia's motives for the military buildup but have said they would welcome a positive contribution to the fight against the Islamic State group that does not bolster Assad.

The administration had insisted that Assad must leave power as he has no credibility to run the country. Over the past several days, however, officials, including Kerry, have sig-

naled that Assad could perhaps be a part of some kind of political transition that would lead the formation of a new government. Sherman, who is stepping down from her post next month, echoed that, saying it may be possible for Assad to have a role in a transition.

"We do not think it is credible for Assad to remain for any length of time as the leader of his country," she said, adding: "We appreciate that there may be a political solution here where Assad is there for some period of time in some capacity while a transition takes place." □



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US Financial Front:

Economy grew at 3.9 percent rate in April-June quarter

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy grew at an even faster clip in the spring than previously estimated. But that growth likely slowed in the summer, held back by global headwinds and turbulent financial markets.

The overall economy expanded at an annual rate of 3.9 percent in the April-June quarter, up from a previous estimate of 3.7 percent, the Commerce Department reported Friday. The new-found strength came from additional gains in consumer spending, business investment and residential construction.

The second quarter expansion in the gross domestic product, the economy's total output of goods and services, was a marked improvement from an anemic 0.6 percent increase in the first quarter when the economy was battered by a harsh winter.

While economists believe growth in the third quarter has slowed to around 2.2 percent to 2.5 percent, they expect a modest acceleration in activity for the final three months of this year.

"Overall, the outlook on the U.S. economy for the remainder of the year remains fairly optimistic, supported by continuing job creation, increasing consumer spending, improvements in the housing sector, and solid manufacturing numbers," said Jim Baird, chief investment officer for Plante Moran Financial Advisors. The revision in second quarter growth was led by a boost in consumer spending, which expanded at a 3.6 percent rate, up from the previous estimate of a 3.1 percent advance. The stronger result reflected increases in spending on such consumer services as health care and transportation.

Business investment spending was revised higher, re-



Construction workers work at the site of a high-rise condominium as part of the downtown Doral complex developed by the Codina Partners in Doral, Fla. The Commerce Department issued the third of three estimates of how the U.S. economy performed in the April-June quarter on Friday, Sept. 25, 2015.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

flecting increased spending on structures and equipment. Residential construction grew at a 9.3 percent pace, even better than the 7.6 percent growth estimated last month.

Friday's report was the government's third and final estimate for second

quarter growth. The initial look tabbed GDP growth in the spring at 2.3 percent, which was revised up to 3.7 percent last month.

Economists believe the subsequent slowdown in the summer will reflect a reduction by businesses in restocking their inventories.

Once unwanted inventories are worked down, the expectation is that growth will accelerate again in the final quarter of the year. Economists at Macroeconomic Advisors are forecasting GDP growth of 2.7 percent in the October-December period. □

Consumer sentiment falls to lowest level in nearly a year



Shoppers ride an escalator beside a special one for shopping carts in the CityTarget store in Boston. The University of Michigan issued its monthly index of consumer sentiment for September on Friday, Sept. 25, 2015.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Worries about the global economy pushed American consumers' spirits to the lowest level in almost a year, the University of Michigan reported Friday.

The university's consumer sentiment index fell to 87.2 this month from 91.9 in August. The third straight monthly drop left the index with its weakest reading since October 2014.

Richard Curtin, chief economist for the survey, said consumers are disturbed by signs of trouble in the Chinese economy, the

world's second-biggest, and continued economic stress in Europe.

"Consumers now believe that that global economic trends can directly influence their own job and wage prospects," he said. On Thursday, heavy equipment manufacturer Caterpillar, hurt by China's slowdown, announced it would cut up to 10,000 jobs through 2018.

The Michigan index hit a low of 55.3 in November 2008, in the depths of the Great Recession. It began to recover and hit an 11-year high 98.1 in January. But it has now dropped in

July, August and September.

"The drop poses modest downside risks for consumer spending," Jesse Hurwitz, an economist at Barclays Research, wrote in a research note.

Still, the Michigan index is up from 84.6 a year ago. The U.S. economy appears to be gathering strength. The government reported Friday that U.S. gross domestic product expanded at a robust 3.9 percent annual pace from April through June. Unemployment has dropped to a seven-year low 5.1 percent in August. □



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Migrant Crisis:

Croatia lifts blockade with Serbia, easing border tensions

PABLO GORONDI
JOVANA GEC
Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Southeastern Europe's squabbling leaders moved Friday to ease the border tensions that have escalated for more than a week since Hungary sought to slow the flood of asylum seekers through its territory. Croatia reopened its main cargo crossing Friday with Serbia after heated exchanges between the two former Yugoslav states. The decision came hours after Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban pledged to consult with governments in the region before moving

ing ahead with plans to build a fence along the Croatian border. The concessions came shortly after a European Union summit on the migrant crisis, suggesting that the 28-nation bloc had become alarmed at the lack of cooperation between neighboring governments and the increasingly ugly tone of their exchanges. Just hours before Croatia announced its decision, a senior EU official appealed to authorities in Zagreb to change their minds. "This crisis is of global dimension," Johannes Hahn, commissioner for regional policy, told reporters in Bel-



A group of migrants lines up to cross the border from Croatia near the village of Beremend, Hungary, Friday, Sept. 25, 2015. Hungary's prime minister Viktor Orban said he will hold consultations with other countries in the region and with the United Nations before making a decision about closing the border with Croatia for migrants.

(AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

grade, the Serbian capital. Hungary's closure of its border with Serbia on Sept. 15 triggered a domino effect that sent those fleeing their homelands scurrying from one European border to the next as they tried to reach Western Europe. Croatia at first welcomed the migrants, thinking they would transit through to Slovenia, Austria and then Germany. But Slovenia refused to let the people pass, leaving Croatia, one of the EU's poorest nations,

responsible for tens of thousands of people. The government in Zagreb then accused Serbia of shunting the refugees into its territory and closed the cargo crossing in retaliation. Some 60,000 asylum seekers have entered Croatia since Hungary shut its border with Serbia on Sept. 15. Orban on Friday sought to ease tensions, promising to consult with others before Hungary completes a razor-wire fence along its border with Croatia, a move that

would insert more confusion into an already difficult situation in the Balkans. "It is not enough to tell the world through the press what we are doing and why," Orban told reporters in Vienna. "We have to go everywhere and gather support before the closing of the (border) takes place." The chaos also strained relations between Croatia and Serbia, old rivals who fought a war amid the breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. □

Russia, Ukraine reach deal on winter gas supplies

The Associated Press
BRUSSELS (AP) — An EU official says Russia and Ukraine have ended months of uncertainty and finally reached agreement on supplies of natural gas to Ukraine for the coming winter. Gas disputes between Russia and Ukraine have led to cut-offs of supply in the past, and one stand-

off in 2009 caused serious disruptions in shipments of Russian gas to EU countries. Last winter, Russia and Ukraine struck an emergency deal on gas prices, but that agreement subsequently expired. EU-brokered talks seeking a similar agreement on gas for the coming winter began in March.

Maros Sefcovic, an EU Commission vice president, said the new deal was initiated Friday in Brussels by Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak and Ukrainian Energy Minister Volodymyr Demchynyn. He said it assured Ukraine would receive Russian gas through next March. □



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Saudi Arabia accused of neglect over deadly disaster at hajj

AYA BATRAWY
JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

MINA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia faced new accusations of neglect Friday in the hajj disaster that killed over 700 people, the second tragedy at this year's pilgrimage overseen by the kingdom's rulers who base their legitimacy in part on protecting Islam's holiest sites. Leading the criticism was regional Shiite powerhouse Iran, which always seeks an opportunity to undermine its Sunni adversary. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said in New York that at least 140 Iranians were killed. He suggested that "ineptitude" by the Saudi authorities involved in organizing the hajj was to blame for the two accidents this month that have resulted in at least 830 deaths.

In Tehran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned a Saudi envoy for the second time in as many days to hear protests over the incident, a vice president blamed Saudi "mismanagement," and thousands marched in the streets and denounced the Saudi royal family.

Saudi Arabia has spent billions of dollars and undertaken massive construction projects to make the annual hajj safer for the world's Muslims, and the last serious loss of life had occurred nine years ago. In the worst hajj disaster in a quarter century, two huge waves of pilgrims converged Thursday on a street near a religious site in Mina, and 719 people were crushed or trampled to death, while 863 were injured. That followed an accident Sept. 11 in which a storm toppled a crane at the Grand Mosque in Mecca that killed 111 people. While Saudi authorities

are still investigating Thursday's accident, Health Minister Khalid al-Falih has blamed it on the masses themselves, telling a Saudi broadcaster that "some pilgrims had moved in the wrong direction amid the crowds."

But a survivor who spoke to The Associated Press said some Saudi guards only exacerbated the stampede at Mina by refusing to open nearby gates that could have relieved the crush.

The street where the incident took place is about 12 meters (36 feet) wide and lined with barricades, behind which are tents of hajj tour groups. Pilgrims move in one direction to and from a religious complex, where they throw stones at pillars representing the devil. On Thursday, the crowds apparently collided with each other at an intersection, the Interior Ministry said.

Survivor Mahfouz el-Taweel of Egypt told the AP he was in the crowd packed shoulder to shoulder that collided on the same street with another mass of people coming from a different direction. Those in the back were unaware of this and pressed forward, causing a crush of bodies, trampling and a stampede, the 52-year-old el-Taweel said. "If they had barred people from coming the other way, this would not have happened," he said.

"I'm coming to perform the hajj, not to die," el-Taweel added. "These people deserve compensation. It's not just enough to say God's will and call them martyrs."

He said Saudi Arabia should share responsibility for the hajj with a multinational force from some of the countries that send large numbers of pilgrims, such as Egypt. □



Hundreds of thousands of Muslim pilgrims walk in Mina, near the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia faced new accusations of neglect Friday in the hajj disaster that killed over 700 people, the second tragedy at this year's pilgrimage overseen by the kingdom's rulers.

(AP Photo/Mosa'ab Elshamy)

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Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras sits during the first cabinet meeting of his new government in Athens, Friday, Sept. 25, 2015. Tsipras told his cabinet that the country can exit its debilitating financial crisis by 2019.

(AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis)

Tsipras pledges to end Greece crisis by 2019

NICHOLAS PAPHITIS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's newly re-elected prime minister pledged Friday to fast-track negotiations with international bail-out creditors so the country can be in a position to get some much-needed debt relief.

Alexis Tsipras told his first Cabinet meeting that his aim is to have steered the country out of its crisis by 2019 when his four-year mandate ends. "This is an absolutely achievable target, provided we dare carry out major reforms and changes," Tsipras said, in a speech liberally punctuated with references to speed. "We must work to re-establish, as soon as possible, financial stability, and restore normality to the banking system."

Tsipras, 41, heads a left-led coalition with the small right-wing populist party, the Independent Greeks, following last Sunday's election.

He called the snap polls seven months into his first mandate, after hardline left-wingers in his Syriza party rebelled against a policy U-turn that saw Greece signing a third international bailout — accompanied by new austerity measures. The July agreement, which was concluded under duress as bankruptcy and isolation from the rest of Europe loomed, came after months of negotiations with creditors that hammered the economy and led to the imposition of strict capital controls to prevent a bank run by worried depositors.

Tsipras pledged to respect Greece's commitments for further spending cuts, tax hikes and reforms, and said his first, urgent priority will be to launch talks on reducing the country's crippling debt burden and boost its battered banks.

Tsipras said implementing "without delay" the country's bailout agreement in order to "speedily con-

clude" the first review of Greece's progress by bail-out inspectors.

"That will allow the process to go ahead speedily to open, as soon as possible, the crucial discussion on reducing Greece's debt, as foreseen in the (July bail-out) agreement," he said. Greece's European creditors have promised to look again at Greece's debt if the country gets past its first review. Though an outright cut in the country's debt has been ruled out, Tsipras will be hoping to get relief in the form of longer repayment periods and cuts in the interest rates on the loans.

Tsipras promised action to fight tax evasion and undeclared employment, and reform public administration, while seeking a good compromise on creditor-demanded labor and pension reforms.

He also told cabinet members to spend less time giving interviews and more time at work. □

UN-backed truce deal reached for 2 front line theaters in Syria

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A U.N.-backed truce deal has been reached for two key Syrian battleground theaters that will see the transfer of thousands of Shiite and Sunni civilians and fighters from one area to another, activists and a militant cleric said Friday.

The deal will end months of fighting between Sunni insurgents and pro-government forces, including fighters from Lebanon's Shiite militia group Hezbollah, and the besieging of civilians.

The controversial transfer will allow a group of Sunni insurgents operating under a coalition called Jaish al-Fatah, or Army of Conquest, and their families safe passage out of the Zabadani area, along the Lebanese border.

In exchange, 10,000 Shiites, civilians and wounded pro-government fighters from two villages in rebel-controlled northern Idlib province will be allowed to leave, said Abdullah al-Muhaysini, a Saudi militant cleric living in Syria.

The Sunni insurgents will head from Zabadani to the rebel-controlled Idlib province, while the Shiites will settle in the government-controlled suburb of Damascus, the head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

If implemented, the agreement would be another rare example of international diplomacy successfully brokering an end to fighting in specific areas in Syria. The U.N. previously brokered a cease-fire in 2014 to end over two years of siege on the central city of Homs. But the deal would also underline concerns about forced demographic changes in the Syrian civil war, now in its fifth year, which has already displaced nearly half of Syria's pre-war population.

The opposition has accused Syrian President Bashar Assad's government of working with its allies, including Iran, on moving populations around to empty government-held areas of Sunnis. The insurgents against Assad are largely Sunnis, including foreign fighters from around the region and elsewhere who joined the war.

Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said Iran played a key mediating role in the U.N.-brokered deal during negotiations held in Turkey, representing the Syrian government at the table. He said decisions were, however, made by the government.

Nasrallah, in remarks aired Friday on Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV, said the deal will not force people to relocate but that civilians who want to leave Zabadani with the militants are free to do so if they want. He added that the deal allows for humanitarian supplies and goods to reach the two villages by road for those remaining behind.

U.N. spokeswoman Jessy Chahine told The Associated Press on Friday that the U.N. facilitated contacts between the different parties but would not elaborate on details of the deal. □

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Spain: Radical party likely kingmaker in Catalonia secession



The leader of radical left party CUP David Fernandez speaks with a reporter of the The Associated Press during an interview in Barcelona, Spain. Catalans, Fernandez said, need to claim their sovereignty as a nation from a Spanish state he insists has little respect for Catalonia and is an enthusiastic participant in a global capitalist economy he labels as "a war machine that robs, kills and lies."

(AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)

JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— A radical left party has made a startling journey from colorful oddity to potential kingmaker in Catalonia's independence drive.

The Popular Unity Candidacy, known as CUP, joins a line of far-left movements seizing the political momentum in Europe, from Greece's ruling Syriza party and Spain's own far-left Podemos movement to the shock emergence last week of socialist Jeremy Corbyn as leader of Britain's Labour Party.

As in the other cases, painful austerity policies have given wings to the CUP — and it finds itself possibly holding the key to the aspirations of Catalan separatists determined to sever centuries-old ties with Spain.

Catalans vote Sunday in regional parliamentary elections that the break-away camp hopes will give them a mandate to put their region on a path toward independence —

a goal the Madrid central government says would be illegal.

Polls show the race is tight in the vote one year after Scots decided in a referendum against splitting from the United Kingdom. But Catalonia's large "Together for Yes" block formed by pro-independence parties from the rest of political spectrum will need support from the smaller CUP to secure a 68-seat majority in the 135-seat regional parliament.

And without the majority, secessionists concede, the effort to break away from Spain will be set back for years. That gives CUP potentially strong leverage to dictate the terms of its support, and impose some of its hard-left agenda on business-friendly Catalonia. CUP is present only in northeastern Catalonia and is led by the outspoken David Fernandez, who sports T-shirts with radical slogans (from his wardrobe of more than 200), while debating in the ornate chambers of Catalonia's Parliament.

Under the 41-year-old

Fernandez, the party has succeeded regionally in tapping into the same anger at Europe's austerity measures that has vitalized far-left European parties like Syriza in Greece that eat into traditional support for social democrats. Polls show CUP set to win as many as 10 parliamentary seats, up from the three it currently holds.

Catalans, he said in an interview with The Associated Press, need to claim their sovereignty as a nation from a Spanish state he insists has little respect for Catalonia and is an enthusiastic participant in a glob-

al capitalist economy he labels as "a war machine that robs, kills and lies."

Movements that inspire Fernandez include Syriza, Ireland's Sinn Fein, Spain's Basque Country separatists and the Zapata Army of National Liberation active in Mexico's Chiapas region in the 1990s.

But he said CUP owes most of its identity to Catalonia's own history of workers and leftist movements, including 1930s radicals from predictatorship Catalonia — when anarchists, communists and militant workers unions were among those who fought a losing 1936-

39 war against Francisco Franco's fascist forces.

After earning a reputation as a gifted debater in parliament, Fernandez and CUP's radical rhetoric have struck a note with pro-independence Catalans who are angry about the languishing economy and firm in their belief that Catalonia does not get back what it pays in taxes to Madrid.

Fernandez has consistently polled as Catalonia's "highest rated" politician in regional government surveys since he joined the chamber in 2012. □

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Venezuela:

Maduro says he'll meet with Guyana leader at UN

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro says that he plans to meet with Guyanese President David

television late Thursday that the meeting will take place in the framework of the United Nations General Assembly, with the support

was reported by state media on Friday morning. Granger is expected to address the issue Friday at the U.N. General Assembly

tice. Venezuela has long claimed a jungle area known as the Essequibo that comprises about 40 percent of Guyana's territory. The socialist country reasserted those claims this year after a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corp. announced a significant oil discovery off the coast of Guyana.

Since then, the two sides have scaled back on their shared commerce.

Guyana was conducting military exercises amid the border flap on Friday. Hundreds of soldiers assembled on all military bases as they prepared to march through the capital of Georgetown and other nearby towns. Guyana's government said troops will also stage parachute jumps outside the capital. Granger had accused Maduro this week of massing troops on the border.

But Guyana Chief of Staff Brig. Gen Mark Phillips said Friday that the military was monitoring possible troop movements by Venezuela and "there is no evidence of any increase on the Venezuelan side." □



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro speaks with Ecuador's President Rafael Correa, on a government balcony, in Quito, Ecuador. Maduro says that he plans to meet with Guyanese President David Granger in New York to discuss a border dispute between the two South American neighbors. (AP Photo/Patricio Realpe)

Granger in New York to discuss a border dispute between the two South American neighbors.

Maduro said in a statement broadcast on state

of U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. The U.N. did not immediately comment on the meeting.

The Venezuelan president's arrival in New York

gathering. He previously said that he no longer wants the dispute handled by a U.N. mediator and will seek intervention from the International Court of Jus-

CARIBBEAN News Briefs

Sheraton casino to close in Puerto Rico's San Juan

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Another casino is closing in Puerto Rico as the U.S. territory struggles through nine years of economic stagnation. A spokeswoman for Starwood Hotels & Resorts said Friday that the Sheraton Old San Juan Hotel & Casino will be sold to an affiliate of Tishman Hotel Corporation. The hotel is located in the historic district of Puerto Rico's capital. Officials said the casino will be turned into retail space. They said leases are being negotiated and that details will be released soon. Starwood said the casino will be closed to ensure the hotel's financial stability. It would be the eighth casino to close in Puerto Rico in the past five years. □

Couple in Puerto Rico held on incest child trafficking

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A Puerto Rico couple has been charged with prostitution, incest and human trafficking in a case authorities say involved their four young children. Police said Friday that the 30-year-old suspects are accused of prostituting their 11-year-old daughter in front of the other children who range in age from 6 to 9 years old. The couple was identified as Kenneth Martinez and Tanya Figueroa. It is unclear if they have an attorney. A third unidentified person has been charged in the case but not arrested. Police said they investigated after receiving multiple complaints from neighbors in the southern town of San Lorenzo. Police said the alleged abuse occurred from 2013 to 2015. □

Police fire tear gas to quell protesters in Kashmir

AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Government forces on Friday fired tear gas and used batons to quell thousands of anti-India protesters who turned violent after Eid prayers in various mosques in the Indian portion of Kashmir, police said. The protesters, waving Pakistani and pro-militant flags and chanting pro-independence slogans, hurled stones at government forces who tried to stop them from marching

in Srinagar and at least two other places in the region. One person suffered critical injuries and was hospitalized after he was hit by a tear gas shell in Sopore, a town 50 kilometers (30 miles) northwest of Srinagar, the main city in the Indian portion of Kashmir, a police officer said on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

Authorities tightened security and blocked all mobile and landline Internet services for two days, begin-

ning Friday, as a measure to stop Muslim protesters from uploading pictures of animal sacrifices, especially slaughter of cows which are worshipped by Hindus. Tension has been building in the region after a court two weeks ago upheld a colonial-era law banning slaughtering of cows and selling beef in the region, a decision resented by Muslims.

The Jammu-Kashmir state government in the Indian portion is likely to appeal the court ruling

The 1932 law made the slaughter of cows punishable by up to 10 years' imprisonment and a fine. Indian authorities did not enforce the law for about seven decades.

Kashmir is mainly Muslim, while the majority of people in the rest of India are Hindus who hold cows sacred.

Insurgent groups have been fighting for Kashmir's independence from India or its merger with neighboring Pakistan since 1989. □



Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival Night II: Red Hot 'Grupo Niche' to Bring the House Down Tonight!

ORANJESTAD – After an exciting first night of the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival at the Renaissance Festival Plaza featuring The Earth, Wind & Fire Experience with the Al McKay Allstars, the Mike Stern Band, Roy Hargroves' RH Factor, The Ploctones, Fuente, Delbert Bernabela, Michael Bremo, and The Failures, tonight promises to be a Saturday night to remember!

This annual festival ignites Aruba's music scene with an impressive lineup of International and local jazz, Latin, soul, and funk musicians at Renaissance Market Place. It is not only about music; the vibrating atmosphere, tasty food stands, and numerous bars make this an unforgettable, unique experience.



Locals as well as International visitors have

geared up their plans to be concentrated around both days of the festival. The Purple Entertainment Group transformed the Renaissance Marketplace area into a massive festival site. We are talking about three stages for the unbelievable lineup of performing artists! For the finale tonight, the lineup includes headliners Grupo Niche, as well as Jessy J, Maite Hon-

telé, Roberta Gambarini, Johnny Scharbaay, the Franklin Granadillo Big Band, Live Xpressions, and Robert Jean D'or. Tickets are still available but are limited as the performing artists are very popular and in demand under the local community as well as the visiting tourists. Tickets are on sale in Aruba for adults at Super Food, Plaza Bookshop, Valero Boulevard, Valero

Essoville, The Market Alhambra, De Palm Tours activity desks, Red Sail Sports activity desks, and Pelican Adventures activity desks. This is a unique opportunity to enjoy great music, art and gastronomy during a fun-filled weekend for the 2015 Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival. For more information, feel free to call 588-0211, or visit www.caribbeanseajazz.com. □



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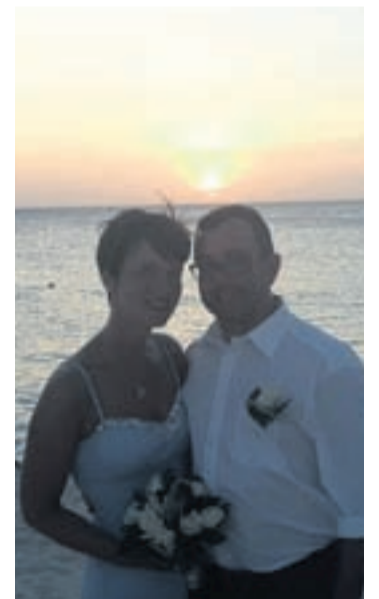


Réné and Heike Schneider Renew Their Vows on Aruba!



PALM BEACH - On Tuesday, September 22nd, Mr. Réné and Mrs. Heike Schneider celebrated the renewal of their vows after 25 years of marriage and experienced the romance of Aruba! They got married in East Germany right when The Wall came down – so they did not have anything to celebrate a big wedding. The only special thing during their wedding ceremony in East Germany that

time they had, was an orchid – and so their Aruban bouquet showed again an orchid!! The couple was searching for a long long time where to celebrate their renewal of the vows after their 25 years of happy marriage, and came across our beautiful island of Aruba where they are now staying at the RIU Palace and are very, very happy to be in Aruba. When they were plan-



ning their renewal they checked the internet and found Mrs. Rita Morozow who made their dream come true. They contacted her and she organized everything for their big day. In Aruba Rensley Zijlstra took up the loose ends and was their guide and assistant during their stay and their ceremony. □

THE MILL RESORTS & SUITE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE "EAT LOCAL ARUBA RESTAURANT WEEK!!!!"

It is with great Pleasure and Enthusiasm, that The Mill Resort & Suite is participating in this year Eat Local Aruba Restaurant Week, organized by ATA!!

The timing could not have been better for us at The Mill Resort, since we started a couple months ago, to Revamp the Concept and the Menu of "The Mill Restaurant" located right by the pool deck, where all our local clients, and guest can visit us and experience Fine Dining, either in the Restaurant, or under the stars outside on the terrace.!!

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HRH Princess Laurentien Speaks About the Strength of Children

TANJA FRAAI
AT Contributing Writer
ORANJESTAD/AMSTERDAM

- HRH Princess Laurentien delivered the keynote during an international trade mission of InterExpo in Amsterdam Wednesday, September 23rd.

She addressed the Inter-Expo dinner as founder and Director of the Missing Chapter Foundation (MCF), initiator of the Kids Counsel (Raad van Kinderen). She was the guest of WeConnect Foundation, which focuses on education within the Kingdom.

Together with UNICEF, MCF works with companies and schools to facilitate and implement the Kids Counsel. Some 10 companies in Aruba and Curacao have installed a Kids Counsel. Bonaire and St. Maarten have also expressed an interest to follow suit. In the Netherlands, over 30 companies have already installed a Kids Counsel.

Kids Counsel: The princess spoke about the Kids Counsel as an innovative initiative that puts equality, innovation and entrepreneurship into practice. As a consequence, children will structurally have a say and will be visible in the decision-making process. By working together everyone benefits – children learn to help think about the world around them, decision-makers are offered unexpected solutions and perspectives and teachers are inspired by the creative intellect of their students. The Kids Counsel's mission is to develop the Kids Counsel into a norm in the management of Dutch organizations. Auction WeConnect: During the dinner, Dutch politician Alexander Pechtold presented an auction for WeConnect Foundation. Lots of items such as paintings of Caribbean artists, cd's and historical treasures of different parts



HRH Princess Laurentien delivers the keynote during an international trade mission of InterExpo in Amsterdam Wednesday, September 23, 2015.

(Photo by Nataly Linzey)

of the Kingdom were being auctioned with a good result. Thus, education and youth were an important theme at the international trade mission.□

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Antilles Canon Law Society Convention Comes to a Close

ORANJESTAD - From September 22-24, the 11th Convention of the Antilles Canon Law Society was held at the La Cabana Conference Hall. A delegation of 38 members comprised of reverends and deacons that work for the Ecclesiastical Tribunal of the Caribbean met and discussed various topics. The primary topic was Motu Proprio given to the church by Pope Francis on the 8th of September. It is hoped these translations will assist all who exercise the church's juridic ministry in studying and implementing the new norms. Another important topic was the study of the reform of the matrimonial processes in Canon Law. Reverend Canuto F. Fuentebella president of the of the Ecclesiastical Tribunal of the Willemstad [Curacao] diocese declared at its closing, "the conference was a success." □





AL Capsules

Royals clinch first division title for 30 years

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

— Kansas City clinched the AL Central for its first division title in 30 years, beating Seattle 10-4 on Thursday night.

Johnny Cueto picked up his first victory in nearly six weeks, and the win, coupled with Minnesota's loss to Cleveland, ensured the title.

The Royals have dominated the division, leading by as many as 14 games.

It's the Royals' first division title since 1985, when they won the AL West en route to their only World Series championship.

The Kauffman Stadium announced crowd of 32,244 cheered when the Twins' final score was shown on the scoreboard in the top of the ninth.

Kansas City became the first team to wrap up a division title this year. St. Louis and Pittsburgh have secured playoff berths in the NL.

Cueto (3-6) was 0-5 in his previous six starts. Logan Kensing (1-1) took the loss.

ORIOLES 5, NATIONALS 4

Jonathan Schoop and Matt Wieters hit two-run homers and the Baltimore Orioles completed a three-game sweep of the Washington Nationals with a 5-4 victory Thursday.

Continued on page 20



Kansas City Royals mascot Sluggerrr holds up a sign on the field after the Royals clinched the AL Central with a 10-4 win over the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015, in Kansas City, Mo. Associated Press

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NL Capsules

Kershaw, Dodgers get past Diamondbacks 6-3

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Heisey hit a grand slam in a six-run fifth inning and Los Angeles trimmed its magic number to four for the NL West.

Los Angeles increased its division lead to 7 1-2 games over the San Francisco Giants, who faced San Diego later.

Clayton Kershaw (15-7) had nine strikeouts while yielding six hits and three runs over five innings. He left trailing 3-0, but ended up with his fifth victory in six starts when the Dodgers rallied for their second straight win.

Howie Kendrick had a two-run single for the Dodgers. Rookie Brandon Drury homered off Kershaw, and Paul Goldschmidt got his 19th RBI in his last 19 games against the Dodgers. Arizona would have to win its final nine games to avoid



Los Angeles Dodgers' Chris Heisey hits a grand slam home run against the Arizona Diamondbacks during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015.

Associated Press

its fourth consecutive non-winning season.

Kenley Jansen pitched the ninth for his 34th save.

Patrick Corbin (6-5) was in control until the fifth inning of his second loss to the Dodgers in 12 days.

METS 6, REDS 4

CINCINNATI (AP) — Daniel Murphy had three hits, including a tiebreaking triple in the seventh inning, as New York closed in on its first playoff appearance in nine years.

The victory, combined with Washington's loss to Baltimore, reduced the Mets' magic number for clinching the NL East title to three. Steven Matz tried to extend his record-setting start with the Mets, but couldn't hold a 3-1 lead. He had allowed two or fewer runs in each of his first five starts — a club record — but gave up two RBI singles by Brandon Phillips and left with the game tied 3-all in the sixth.

Murphy's two-out triple off left-hander Manny Parra (1-2) started a three-run rally in the seventh. Yoenis Cespedes singled for another run, and Lucas Duda followed with his second RBI double of the game.

Erik Goeddel (1-1) retired the only batter he faced in the sixth. Jay Bruce hit a solo homer off Hansel Robles in the eighth, cutting it to 6-4. Jeury's Familia

pitched the ninth for his 42nd save, one shy of Armando Benitez's club record from 2001.

CARDINALS 7, BREWERS 3
ST. LOUIS (AP) — Jhonny Peralta and Stephen Piscotty hit back-to-back homers and combined for seven RBIs to power St. Louis.

St. Louis has won five straight and holds a four-game lead over Pittsburgh for the NL Central lead.

The Cardinals trailed 3-0 in the fourth when Peralta hit a three-run homer into the bleachers in center field, and Piscotty followed two pitches later with a homer into the seats in left-center. The homer by Peralta, St. Louis' cleanup hitter, was his first since Aug. 1.

Piscotty added a two-run, two-out single off Taylor Jungmann (9-7) in the fifth and a run-scoring single in the seventh. □

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Stenson stretches lead at East Lake; Spieth makes a surge

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Two years after Henrik Stenson sailed to victory at the Tour Championship, he has another comfortable lead after 36 holes at East Lake and Jordan Spieth is chasing him. Back then, Spieth was a 20-year-old rookie.

Now he's the Masters and U.S. Open champion, and he found a spark in a steady drizzle Friday.

Stenson overcame a few mistakes off the tee and was solid on the back nine for a 2-under 68, stretching his lead to three shots over Spieth going into the weekend and moving closer to his first win of the year — and a \$10 million bonus for claiming the FedEx Cup.

"I didn't feel like it was my best day, but I managed to keep it together and 2 under around here is never bad," Stenson said.

He doesn't know anything different. This was his sixth straight round under par at East Lake, a course where the Swede has led after every round he has played.

Stenson, who went wire-to-wire in the Tour Championship in 2013, was at 9-under 131.

Spieth has made only one bogey over two rounds, and a pair of par saves on consecutive holes on the front nine felt just as valuable as his four birdies in a round of 66. The average score was 71.6 on a wet day that yielded only four rounds under par.

Spieth went from the right rough to the left rough on No. 5 and still had 60 yards



Henrik Stenson examines his ball as he prepares to putt on the fourth during the second round of the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Club Friday, Sept. 25, 2015, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

left and a tree in front of him. He took a risk going through the tree to 6 feet for par, and then rolled in a 20-foot par putt for a bunker save on the par-3 sixth. "It was huge," Spieth said about the par saves. "I thought I may have to re-tee, and I was just kind of all over the place at that time. And that third shot I hit on 5, I mean, one of 10, maybe. There was no other option, but it wasn't necessarily smart. And I had to have the wind blowing this branch back and forth, I had to hit it when it blew it this way or else it would have gone up into it."

He closed with a 20-foot birdie putt on the par-3 18th to get into the final group.

Paul Casey made bogey from the bunker on the 18th for a 70 and was four shots behind, while British Open champion Zach Johnson birdied three of his last four holes to overcome a double bogey on the par-5 ninth. He had a 70 and was at 4-under 136.

Jason Day, in his first event as No. 1 in the world, finally looked human. He felt flat, wasn't sharp off the tee or into the greens, and shot a 71. It was his third round over par in his last 10 tournaments, and it left him nine shots behind.

Stenson was four shots clear of Adam Scott after 36 holes when he won the Tour Championship two years ago, with Spieth another shot behind. Spieth

made a late run on Sunday and tied for second, capping off a remarkable rookie season.

He is looked at differently now — the Masters and U.S. Open champion and looking more certain to be voted PGA Tour player of the year.

"He's one of the best players in the world as we know, and had a fantastic year behind him," Stenson said. "So he's going to be a very tough contender throughout these last two days. He was good already back then, but he's certainly not any less good now. We know that much. Once again, I've got to focus on my game and bring my game and keep my head down and foot down and

press on if I want to leave the guys behind me."

The biggest challenge figures to be East Lake, especially with more wet conditions in the forecast.

The Bermuda rough can be tricky when it's dry because it can be difficult to judge how far the ball flies out of it. Wet rough is difficult in a different manner. It makes the course longer off the tee, and longer coming out of the thick grass.

Day hit a 3-wood from 195 yards in the rough on No. 5. Had it been dry conditions like Thursday, Day figures he would have hit 8-iron.

Stenson hit a 4-wood and a gap wedge to a front pin on No. 4 in the opening round. On Friday, he hit 3-wood off the tee and still had 6-iron to a back pin.

"That's a two-club difference when the air is heavy and you're not getting as much roll," he said.

With a tougher golf course, Stenson said there will be a premium on making fewer mistakes. Spieth is happy to be on a course of this nature, especially after three weeks of watching players — mostly Day — pour in one birdie after another in low-scoring affairs.

It was demoralizing at times, especially when Day started 61-63 last week at Conway Farms.

"I wasn't going to catch him last week," Spieth said. "I say that now. You tell me that at the time and I'll get mad at you. I don't accept that, and that's my personality. This week is a bit different because there isn't a 22 under out there." □

Royals

Continued from page 17

Baltimore entered Thursday four games out of the second AL wild-card spot, while Washington began the day 6 1/2 games behind the NL East-leading New York Mets.

This was a makeup of a game postponed Monday because of rain.

Manny Machado's RBI single in the first inning and Schoop's two-run shot in the fourth gave the Orioles a 3-0 lead.

But Wilson Ramos' homer and Yunel Escobar's two run-scoring hits helped the Nationals go up 4-3.

Blake Treinen (2-4) came on for the eighth as Washington's fourth pitcher. Steve Pearce singled and Wieters followed with his seventh homer.

Mike Wright (3-5) got two outs in the seventh for the victory. Brad Brach threw a scoreless eighth, and Darren O'Day pitched the ninth for his sixth save of the



Kansas City Royals celebrate after a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015, in Kansas City, Mo. The Royals won 10-4 and clinched the AL Central.

Associated Press

season and third of the series.

YANKEES 3, WHITE SOX 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Carlos Beltran hit a three-run homer off White Sox ace Chris Sale to lead New York in its push for a playoff spot.

After a tribute before their first home game since Yogi Berra died, the Yankees closed within three games

of idle Toronto in the AL East. New York cut its magic number to six for clinching at least a wild-card slot. Beltran connected in the third inning for his 18th homer. Michael Pineda (12-8) gave up one run, Trayce Thompson's homer, in six innings. He improved the best strikeout-to-walk ratio in the AL, fanning six

without a walk.

All-Star setup man Dellin Betances entered in the seventh with two on and two outs. He walked Melky Cabrera and Thompson to force home a run before striking out Adam LaRoche. Andrew Miller pitched the ninth for his 35th save.

Sale (12-11) fell to 0-4 in his last six starts and the White Sox dropped their third straight.

RANGERS 8, ATHLETICS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Cole Hamels pitched six innings to earn his fifth consecutive win and Prince Fielder hit his 22nd homer as Texas completed a three-game sweep.

The Rangers moved a season-high 14 games over .500 and extended their lead to 3 1/2 games over the idle Houston Astros in the AL West. Adrian Beltre drove in three runs, and Delino DeShields had three hits and two RBIs for Texas. Hamels (11-8) gave up an unearned run in the second and improved to 5-1 in 10 starts with the Rangers.

Hamels allowed four hits, walked three and struck out two.

Josh Reddick singled and scored for Oakland, which has lost five straight and dropped 25 games under .500 for the first time since 1997.

Chris Bassitt (1-7) gave up three runs and six hits in three innings.

INDIANS 6, TWINS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jason Kipnis hit a leadoff homer and Carlos Santana connected for a three-run shot as Cleveland helped its slim playoff chances.

Francisco Lindor had three hits for Cleveland, which is four games behind Houston in the race for the second AL wild card with 11 to play. But the Twins, Angels and Orioles are between the Indians and Astros in the standings.

The Twins and Angels are 1 1/2 games behind Houston. Baltimore is 3 1/2 back. Torii Hunter and Eddie Rosario homered for Minnesota, which finished a 4-6 homestand. □

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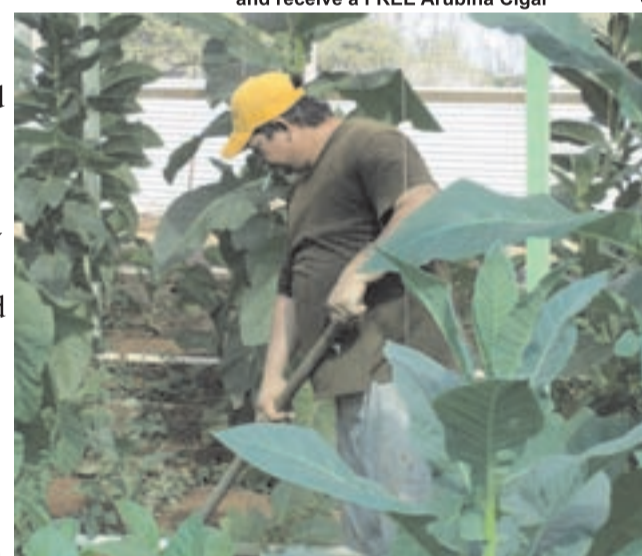
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NFL Roundup

Giants build lead and hold it, beat Redskins 32-21



New York Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham (13) catches a pass for a touchdown in front of Washington Redskins' Bashaud Breeland (26) during the second half an NFL football game Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015, in East Rutherford, N.J.

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer
EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — The New York Giants eliminated their recent bad habit of fourth-quarter collapses and held on to beat Washington 32-21 on Thursday. The Giants fell apart in the fourth quarter of losses to Dallas and Atlanta. This time, New York (1-2) dominated most of the action against the injury-plagued Redskins (1-2), who lost veteran cornerback DeAngelo Hall to a right leg injury that looked serious. "It's definitely important to get a win," said running back Rashad Jennings, whose blocked punt got things started for New York. "I'm reluctant to use the word confidence, but it puts assurance on everything we know we're capable of accomplishing."

The Giants scored in nearly every way possible, beginning with Jennings blocking Tress Way's punt for a safety on Washington's opening series. "Ever since I was a rookie, I've always had a knack for blocking punts," Jennings said. "I can't give you all my secrets, but you just anticipate. It just worked." Andre Williams scored on a 1-yard run, Josh Brown kicked three field goals, and Odell Beckham Jr. made a 30-yard touchdown catch to settle matters. Rueben Randle had a 41-yard TD catch in the closing minutes, after which Washington's Rashad Ross returned the kickoff 101 yards for the final score. New York also led at half-time and through three quarters of its losses to the Cowboys and Falcons,

only to give up that advantage. This time there was no such slip-up. "Players need the reinforcement that comes with closing out the game with a win," coach Tom Coughlin said. Prince Amukamara and Uani Unga both made interceptions of Washington quarterback Kirk Cousins, who struggled once more against New York. Last season, he threw four picks in a loss to New York. Washington, which has lost five straight to the Giants, got field goals of 44 and 37 yards from Dustin Hopkins, but any thoughts of a comeback ended when Matt Jones fumbled on his way into the end zone with 9 1-2 minutes remaining. A late 4-yard TD pass to Chris Thompson and 2-point conversion brought the deficit to 11 before Randle made his scoring catch to

push out the margin. "You go on the road and you play a big division game, a game like this, and you turn the ball over three times and have a punt blocked, and it's going to be very tough to overcome," Redskins coach Jay Gruden said. New York quarterback Eli Manning, who struggled in key situations in the two

losses, was coolly efficient, finishing 23 of 31 for 279 yards. Beckham had seven receptions for 79 yards, and Randle had seven for 116. Washington was hit with several injuries during the game, the worst of which appeared to be Hall's. The team said he had a toe injury that was unlikely to be short-term. □

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Falcons favored at Dallas? You bet

NFL Preview

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Matt Ryan and Julio Jones have the Atlanta Falcons on the kind of roll Tony Romo and Dez Bryant were enjoying with Dallas before long-term injuries sidelined both and clouded the Cowboys' hopes of defending the NFC East title.

The Cowboys have a 2-0 record, but lost wide receiver Bryant in their NFL opener with a broken right foot, and quarterback Romo last week with a broken left collarbone that will cause him to miss at least seven games.

Ryan and Jones, meanwhile, are leading the NFC in yards passing and receiving for the Falcons (2-0), who didn't get their third win until November last year after waiting even longer in 2013. But they have a shot to get there on Sunday in Texas against a Dallas offense which also won't have suspended Rolando McClain and Greg Hardy, and maybe star tight end Jason Witten.

The Falcons already have wins over the NFC East's Philadelphia Eagles and New York Giants, but they're not feeling overconfident.

"All across the league, people get injured and other people step up. It's no different with them," new Falcons coach Dan Quinn said. "We expect a heck of a fight."

The Kansas City Chiefs are back in the limelight on Monday at Green Bay, keen to make up for their most recent prime-time appearance, when they blew that Thursday home game against Denver in the final minute, allowing two scores. If anything, look for running back Jamaal Charles to better protect the ball.

Green Bay has two relatively close wins, and 2014 MVP Aaron Rodgers is at his very best at home. He's thrown 451 straight passes there in the regular season without an interception,



Dallas Cowboys' Tony Romo passes during the second half of an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, Sept. 20, 2015, in Philadelphia.
Associated Press

tion, and has 38 consecutive touchdown passes at home without a pick, both NFL records.

For historians, it's a rematch of the first Super Bowl, won by the Vince Lombardi-led Packers 35-10 in January 1967. But Kansas City is 3-0 at Lambeau Field.

After squeezing out two tight victories, the Denver Broncos are looking strong on defense, mediocre with

the football. If Peyton Manning (29th in passer rating, sacked seven times already) is going to break out, this could be the time. Denver is well rested after a Thursday nighter at Kansas City, and the Detroit Lions have the 30th-ranked defense.

Special teams also have been an issue with the Lions, and the defense clearly misses the big-play ability

of Ndamukong Suh.

Winless Baltimore, welcoming unbeaten Cincinnati, can't afford to fall three games behind the Bengals in the rugged AFC North division, but the Bengals have won four of the past five meetings. In the Ravens' home opener, Cincinnati probably will need to throw: The Ravens haven't allowed a 100-yard rusher in 28 straight games, the

NFL's longest active streak. With the way quarterback Andy Dalton has begun the season, though, the aerial game is just fine by the Bengals. Top receiver A.J. Green has a touchdown catch in three straight matches against Baltimore.

The Seattle Seahawks are angry after road losses to St. Louis and Green Bay, both of which they were in position to win.

So there may not be a better elixir for Seattle than a visit from the undermanned Chicago Bears, who have dropped two home games.

Seattle's home opener will already be amped thanks in part to the return of strong safety Kam Chancellor, likely to make his season debut after ending a holdout that stretched nearly eight weeks. Then mix in the anxiety of a team with Super Bowl aspirations knowing it can't afford to start 0-3.

Week Three began with the Giants actually holding onto a late lead and beating Washington 32-21 on Thursday. New York had lost twice by falling apart in the fourth quarter, but this time built a big margin on the sloppy Redskins, and staying in front. □

Cibulkova beats Ivanovic again to reach Tokyo semifinals



TOKYO (AP) — Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia beat defending champion Ana Ivanovic of Serbia 7-6 (5), 6-3 Friday to reach the semifinals of the Toray Pan-Pacific Open. She will next face seventh-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, who beat Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-2. The other

Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia acknowledges the crowd after defeating Ana Ivanovic of Serbia during a quarterfinal match at the Pan Pacific Open women's tennis tournament in Tokyo, Friday, Sept. 25, 2015.

Associated Press

semifinal will feature top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark and Belinda Bencic of Switzerland. Cibulkova, the only unseeded player to reach the last eight, showed no sign of the stomach bug that forced her withdrawal from the doubles on Thursday. She broke back twice in the first set before taking the tiebreaker and then broke twice more in the second to repeat her victory over Ivanovic in the first round of the U.S. Open.

"I had a lot of chances, I just couldn't convert the points today," Ivanovic said. "I felt in both matches she was reading

my serve really well, and it was very hard at times to know where to serve, so that's something I'll definitely have to improve on the next time we play."

Earlier, Wozniacki overcame No. 5 Angelique Kerber of Germany 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 after saving five break points in the fifth game of the deciding set.

"That was a long game, and holding that definitely gave me some confidence," Wozniacki said. Bencic defeated third-seeded Garbine Muguruza of Spain 7-6 (1), 6-1. Bencic saved three straight break points in the fourth game of the second set to hold for a 3-1 lead and swept the next three games to close out the win. □

Got the new iPhone? Here's how to use Live Photos feature

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If you're getting one of the new iPhones, you'll be able to turn still images into video. The iPhone 6s and 6s Plus, which started shipping Friday in the U.S. and other markets, automatically take three-second videos to accompany your regular shots, including selfies. Imagine snapping a shot of your kid blowing out birthday candles — and getting video showing the flame going out as everyone sings "Happy Birthday." Yes, sound is included. You can also enhance shots of your pets and landscapes, such as a waterfall.

You need one of the 6s models to capture these "Live Photos," but older phones are fine for viewing.

This feature takes practice, so check out these tips:

TAKING THE SHOT

When you open the camera app, the iPhone continually records video in the background, though it's immediately discarded if you do nothing. When you snap a shot, the phone saves a second and a half of video leading to that shot and continues recording until you get three seconds in all.

Wait a few seconds before snapping your shot so

that the video won't show you moving the phone into position. Likewise, resist dropping your camera right after taking the shot. The phone will detect that movement with an upcoming software update, so it can stop the video au-

tomatically. For now, wait for a yellow "LIVE" box on the screen to disappear before moving. Ask your subjects to hold their pose longer. If they start moving or talking, the video will show that. The video will show your flash firing if you use it, so natural lighting is better. The still shot is the key part of Live Photos, and video

merely enhances that. Pay attention to perfecting that still shot in terms of focus, lighting and composition. You don't need to wait for the video recording to finish before snapping another shot. Just keep snapping, as you'd normally do, go to the Photos app and

move your cursor over the "LIVE" box on the lower left corner. Your devices need the latest system software — iOS 9 on iPhones and iPads, watchOS 2 on Apple Watch and El Capitan on the Mac. The Mac update

video. You can also share these through the phone's iCloud Photo Sharing and AirDrop features, but not as email. Apple is letting other services such as Facebook create tools for sharing and viewing as well. Because Live Photos include audio, don't share with someone you've just gossiped about.

PHOTO MANAGEMENT

The video part gets turned off when you edit photos. You can get it back, but you then lose your changes. Make a copy to edit by sending the Live Photo to yourself using iMessage. Just send it to your Apple ID email address rather than your phone number. You can export Live Photos to Mac and Windows computers and find video files that work with most video programs. Quality is lower than usual to save storage. Plus, Apple hides these files under normal use, so this is mostly for advanced users. Each Live Photo takes up about twice the storage of a regular photo. You can't delete just the video part, but you can disable video recording by tapping a yellow circle on the screen. Apple's iCloud Photo Library service might free up some storage on your phone, but you might be better off buying a phone with more storage to begin with. □



A new Apple iPhone 6S is displayed at an Apple store on Chicago's Magnificent Mile, Friday, Sept. 25, 2015, in Chicago.

Associated Press

and the phone will create overlapping three-second videos automatically.

VIEWING AND SHARING

To view a Live Photo on your phone, tap and hold the image in the Photos app. On the Apple Watch, you can view it in its Photos app or as part of a custom watch face with that image. On Mac computers,

is coming soon.

Share Live Photos with family and friends through the Messages app — as long as they have an Apple device with the latest system. Otherwise, they'll just get the still image. Make sure the message is sent as an iMessage, which will appear blue. If it's green, it is a standard text message and won't have

Snowden on video at NYC forum to promote privacy treaty

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Domestic digital spying on ordinary citizens is an international threat that will only be slowed with measures like a proposed international treaty declaring privacy a basic human right, Edward Snowden said Thursday in a video appearance at a Manhattan forum.

"This is not a problem exclusive to the United States. ... This is a global problem that affects all of us," Snowden, the one-time

National Security Agency systems analyst, said in his brief remarks from Moscow via video link. "What's happening here happens in France, it happens in the U.K., it happens in every country, every place, to every person."

The key question, Snowden added, is: "How do we assert what our rights are, traditionally and digitally?"

Snowden gained notoriety in 2013 for leaking details of the once-secret U.S. surveillance programs. He fled to Russia, where he

was granted asylum despite demands by the United States that he return to face espionage and other charges.

The global advocacy group Avaaz organized the gathering to promote the so-called "Snowden Treaty." Countries who signed would be required to curtail surveillance of phone calls and online activity, and also agree to provide sanctuary for people who expose illegal domestic spying. The forum was timed to coincide with the United Nations General As-



In this Dec. 10, 2014, file photo, former U.S. National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, who is in Moscow, is seen on a giant screen during a live video conference for an interview as part of Amnesty International's annual Write for Rights campaign at the Gaite Lyrique in Paris, France.

Associated Press

sembly. Organizers have said diplomats have shown interest in a draft of the

treaty, but have declined to name what nations they represent. □

Late health care slump pushes stocks to weekly loss

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A late slump in health care stocks pushed the market to its third weekly loss this month. Stocks had traded solidly higher for most of the day, as banks, insurance companies and brokerage firms climbed after Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen

The late sell-off on Friday pushed stocks to their third losing week in the last four. "This is a dangerous market that is still looking for direction," said Jerry Braakman, Chief Investment Officer at First American Trust an investment management firm. "Although the U.S. is continuing to improve, outside the U.S., it's just scary."

gan their slide on Monday when Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton pledged to stop "price gouging" in the industry. The health care sector, a longtime favorite of investors, ended the week with its worst weekly performance in more than four years. Biotechnology shares in the

vestors were encouraged by a report that showed U.S. economic growth was faster in the spring than previously estimated. The U.S. economy expanded at an annual rate of 3.9 percent in the April-June quarter, up from a previous estimate of 3.7 percent, the Commerce Department reported Friday. The strength came from gains in consumer spending, business investment and residential construction.

Financial companies got a boost after Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said that the central bank was still likely to raise interest rates this year. She suggested global economic weakness won't be significant enough to alter the central bank's plan to raise its key short-term rate from zero by December. Record low interest rates since the 2008 global financial crisis have been a boon for stocks, underpinning a bull market that has run for six and a half years.

The combination of higher rates and a growing economy is good for financial companies. That's because they can earn more from making loans. Citigroup rose \$1.42, or 2.9 percent, to \$50.55 and Bank of America climbed 34 cents, or 2.2 percent, to \$15.89.

"The financials are a wonderful place to be over the next several quarters if a rate rises materializes," said Jim Russell, a portfolio manager at Bahl & Gaynor Investment Counsel. □



Trader David O'Day, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A late slump in health care stocks pushed the market to its third weekly loss this month.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

said that the policymakers would likely raise interest rates this year. The market gave up its most of its gains in the afternoon as a sell-off in drugmakers led the health care sector lower. The stock market has been volatile for the past six weeks on worries about the impact of slowing growth in China and other emerging markets, as well as uncertainty about the outlook for interest rates.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.9 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 1,931.34. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 113.35 points, or 0.7 percent, to 16,314.67. The Nasdaq composite fell 47.98 points, or 1 percent, to 4,686.50. The S&P 500 closed down 1.4 percent for the week, the Dow was 0.4 percent lower. Shares of drugmakers be-

S&P 500 dropped plunged during the week, pushing the overall health care index down 5.8 percent, its worst week since August 2011. Vertex Pharmaceuticals, which focuses on developing drugs for cystic fibrosis and viral infections, was the biggest decliner in the index on Friday, dropping \$7.83, or 7 percent, to \$103.20. The market had started the day with solid gains as in-

Hyundai recalls 470K Sonatas to replace engines

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Hyundai is recalling nearly a half-million midsize cars in the U.S. to replace the engines because a manufacturing problem could cause them to fail. The recall covers 470,000 Sonata sedans from the 2011 and 2012 model years equipped with 2-liter or 2.4-liter gasoline engines. At the time, the Sonata was Hyundai's top-selling vehicle in the U.S. The company also is recalling nearly 100,000 Accent small cars because the brake lights can fail.

In documents on the Sonata recall posted Friday by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Hyundai says that metal debris may not have been fully removed from the crankshaft area during manufacturing at Hyundai's Alabama engine plant. That can restrict oil flow to the connecting rod bearings, and since they are cooled by oil, they could fail. If that happens, the engines could stall and cause a crash. So far, Hyundai said it has no reports of crashes or injuries from the problem. The company said in documents that a worn connecting rod bearing will make a cyclical knocking noise, and it also could cause the oil pressure warning light to illuminate. Continued driving with the problem can cause the bearing to fail and engine stalling. The company said that the 2011 Sonata was the first Hyundai vehicle to use engines made in Alabama, where the company initially used a mechanical process to remove machining debris from the crankshaft. That process was changed to a high pressure wet blasting system in April of 2012. Hyundai discovered the problem when owners started reporting engine noise. In June of 2015, NHTSA raised the issue with Hyundai, which said it didn't consider the issue to be a safety problem because owners would get warnings. □

Japan core inflation falls in August on low oil prices

TOKYO (AP) — Japan inched back into deflationary territory in August as lower oil prices pulled core inflation excluding volatile food prices lower. The core consumer price index slipped 0.1 percent after remaining flat in July. The "headline" inflation rate, which includes both food and energy data, was flat at 0.2 percent. It was the first time the core inflation measure had dipped lower since

the central bank launched massive asset purchases that are pumping 80 trillion yen (\$670 billion) a year into the economy in a bid to push prices higher. With oil prices below \$50 a barrel, upward pressure on prices has eased, hindering those efforts. The government has made achieving an inflation rate of about 2 percent a key aim of its strategy for forcing the world's third-largest economy out of the de-

flationary doldrums that it says is stifling growth. Excluding both energy and food prices, the price index rose 0.8 percent in August, compared with 0.6 percent in the previous two months. Theoretically, expectations of higher inflation would lead families and businesses to step up spending to beat price increases. But companies have used massive cash piles accumulated thanks to record

profits to invest overseas while consumers have remained relatively frugal. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Thursday an update of his economic policies, setting a target for a 600 trillion yen (\$5 trillion) economy. The plan focused mainly on promises of improved social welfare policies to help alleviate the burden of child and elder care and encourage a higher birth rate. □

VW taps head of Porsche to be new CEO amid emissions scandal

GEIR MOULSON
PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Volkswagen's board appointed the head of its Porsche unit as CEO on Friday, handing longtime company insider Matthias Mueller the task of trying to lead the world's top-selling automaker past a growing emissions scandal.

The company also said it was suspending some employees and would reorganize its North America operations after admitting it used a piece of engine software to cheat on diesel car emissions tests in the U.S.

The decisions come after the previous CEO, Martin Winterkorn, quit the job this week over the scandal, which has shredded the company's reputation.

The company could be heavily fined and hit with class-action lawsuits costing billions. It will also have to fix programming it has said is in some 11 million cars worldwide, far more than the 482,000 identified last week by U.S. authorities.

The 62-year-old Mueller, who has spent his career with Volkswagen Group brands, acknowledged that he was taking the job "at a time in which our

company faces unprecedented challenges. I have respect for this, but I am also facing this task with confidence."

Speaking at Volkswagen's headquarters in Wolfsburg,

ally, our and your patience will be tested, but ... carefulness is even more important than speed."

Mueller said it is "decisive that nothing like this ever happens at Volkswagen

sion to go with an insider is that some in the markets could consider Mueller "tainted" by association with the crisis, said Jason Hanold, managing partner of Evanston, Illinois-based

tion."

Acting supervisory board Chairman Berthold Huber lauded Mueller's "great strategic, entrepreneurial and social competence" and "critical and constructive" approach.

"He knows the group and its brands well and can immediately engage in his new task with full energy," Huber said.

Winterkorn, who had been CEO since 2007, said he took responsibility for the "irregularities" found by U.S. inspectors in VW's diesel engines, but insisted he had personally done nothing wrong.

Volkswagen offered few new details Friday on the fallout from the scandal.

"The supervisory board has, on the basis of current information, recommended suspending some employees immediately until the whole case is cleared up," Huber said. "This has, in part, already happened." He did not elaborate, and a statement from Volkswagen did not specify who the employees were, at what level or where they worked.

The head of VW's employee council, Bernd Osterloh, said that Volkswagen "needs a new beginning" with a "different company culture." □



Newly appointed Volkswagen CEO Matthias Mueller, second from left, poses for a photograph with, from left, Bernd Osterloh, head of the workers' council, Berthold Huber, acting chairman of the supervisory board, Stefan Weil, governor of German state Lower-Saxony and member of the supervisory board, and Wolfgang Porsche, member of the supervisory board, after a press statement following a meeting of Volkswagen's supervisory board in Wolfsburg, Germany, Friday, Sept. 25, 2015, after CEO Martin Winterkorn resigned on Wednesday amid an emissions scandal.

(AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

Germany, he said he would "do everything to win back the trust of our customers, our employees, our partners, investors and the whole public."

"We stand by our responsibility," he said. "Occasion-

again. So we will introduce even tougher compliance and governance standards in the company."

He pledged to make Volkswagen "an even stronger company."

The main risk of VW's deci-

executive search firm Hanold Associates.

The upside, he said, is that Mueller's knowledge of the company offers the chance of "faster traction to help root out the problems within the organiza-

Novartis launches discount program for chronic disease drugs

LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP Business Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Novartis plans to sell medications for heart disease, diabetes and other non-infectious diseases for just \$1 per month's supply in poor countries.

Drugmakers' charity programs have usually focused on infectious diseases and ones spread by parasites, including malaria, HIV and tuberculosis — diseases that have long been major killers in developing countries.

But chronic diseases related to lifestyle and genetics are becoming more common in developing countries, following the trend in wealthy nations, where heart disease and cancer

are top killers.

In low- and middle-income countries, about 28 million people now die every year from heart disease, diabetes, respiratory disorders and cancers, according to the World Health Organization. That toll is expected to grow in the future.

So Novartis, the world's biggest drugmaker, said this week that it decided to focus its program on those diseases. Called Novartis Access, it includes 15 drugs for high blood pressure, chronic heart failure, cholesterol problems, diabetes, breast cancer, asthma and respiratory infections. The company expects that it will help many more patients get the medications included.



A dove flies near the logo of Novartis India Limited at their head office in Mumbai, India. Novartis plans to sell medications for heart disease, diabetes and other non-infectious diseases for just \$1 per month's supply in poor countries.

(AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

The Swiss drugmaker will start shipping the medications by year's end to government and charity health programs in Ethiopia, Ke-

nya and Vietnam. It likely will expand to more countries next year and ultimately could reach 25 to 40 countries in Africa, Asia,

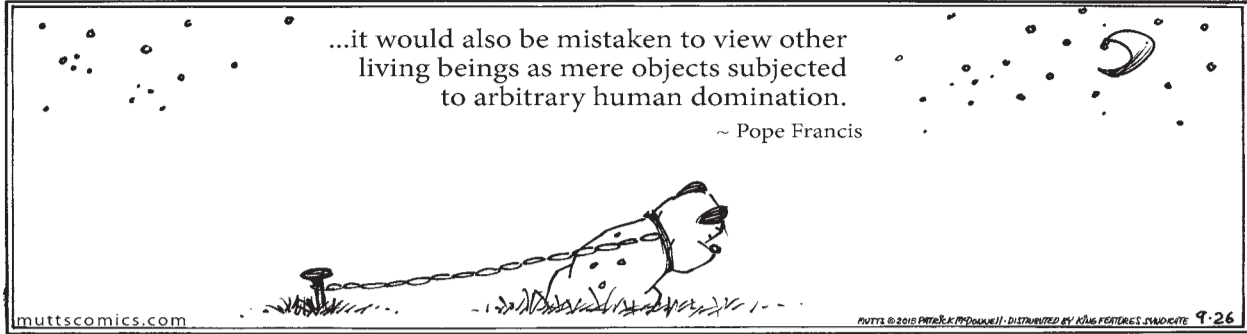
Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Even at the \$1 per month price, Novartis Chairman Joerg Reinhardt said he thinks Novartis Access will be financially sustainable over the long term and could eventually cover all its costs, due to its large scale.

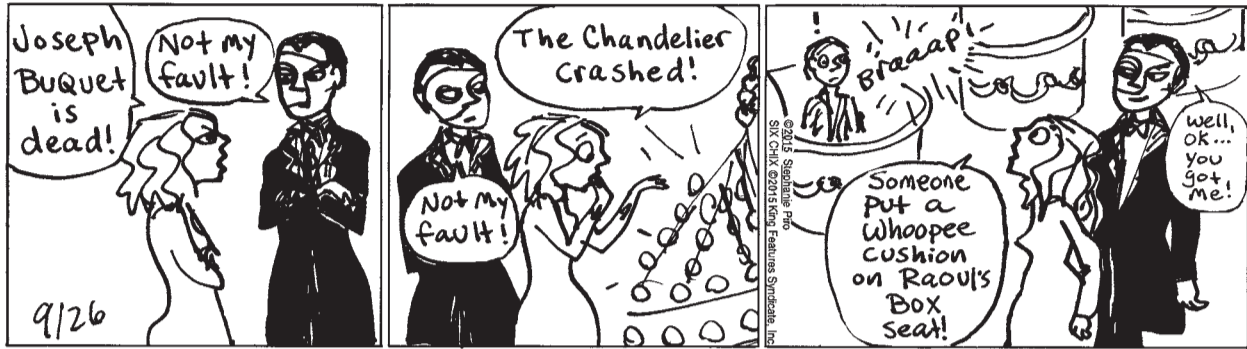
That's partly because Novartis is a top maker of generic drugs, through its Sandoz unit, and all but one of the drugs in the program is generic.

Drugs for Novartis Access will be made at existing Sandoz factories around the world and will have the same quality standard as its medicines sold elsewhere, Reinhardt said. □

Mutts



6 Chix



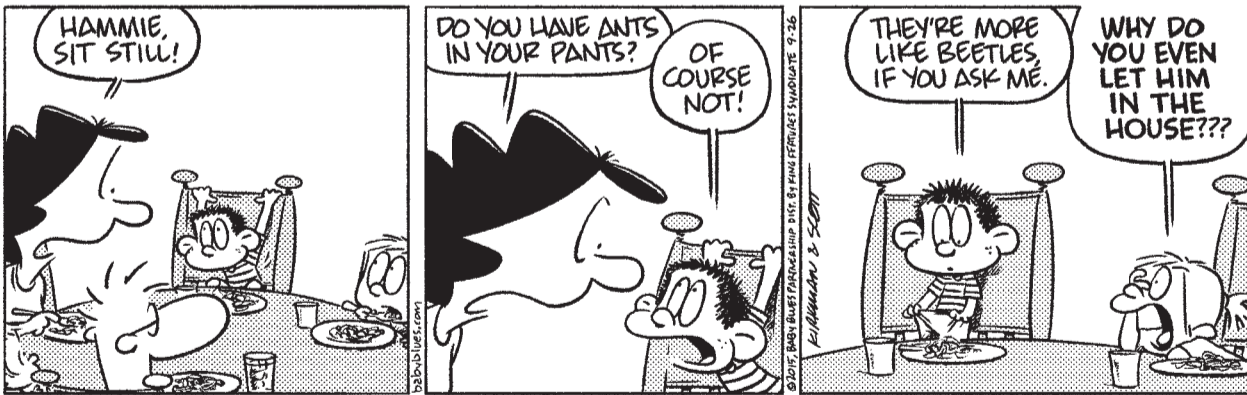
Blondie



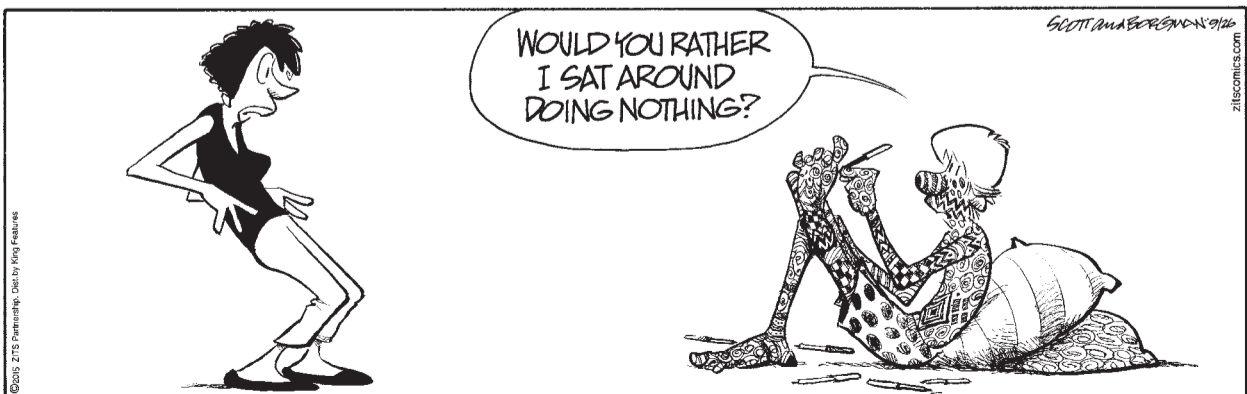
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			6				3	
						4		1
			1	7			8	
9		3	4		7			
		4		9		5		
			3		2	8		9
	3			8	9			
6		7						
	5				4			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/26

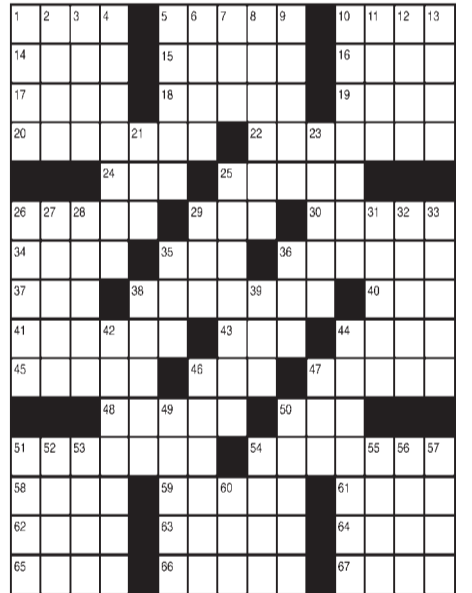
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	3	8	7	6	5	1	9	2
5	7	1	2	4	9	3	8	6
9	6	2	8	1	3	7	4	5
6	4	3	5	9	8	2	7	1
7	2	9	1	3	6	8	5	4
8	1	5	4	7	2	9	6	3
2	9	7	3	5	4	6	1	8
3	5	6	9	8	1	4	2	7
1	8	4	6	2	7	5	3	9

ACROSS

- 1 Scorch
5 Singer Roberta
10 Fellow
14 Mantilla fabric
15 Irish __; fine material
16 City famous for its casinos
17 Rosary prayers, for short
18 Agassi of tennis
19 Crematorium shelf supplies
20 Hate
22 Spookiest
24 Vex
25 Nitrogen and helium
26 Give a speech
29 Become firm
30 Miami __, FL
34 Broad
35 Attila the __
36 Steal cattle
37 "What'll __; hit for Irving Berlin
38 Bad mark against a pupil
40 Motorists' org.
41 Bundle of __; basket case
43 Weep
44 Undergarment
45 Inexperienced
46 Baby's eating accessory
47 Tropical trees
48 Irritates
50 Scientist's workplace
51 Jail
54 Cool desserts
58 Explorer Marco
59 Remembered Texas mission
61 Cramp
62 Strong __ ox
63 Aviator
64 You, biblically
65 Home of twigs
66 Obstacles
67 Sound the horn



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/26/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

B	O	T	C	H		I	R	O	N		A	C	E	S
A	W	A	R	E		R	U	L	E		R	A	J	A
R	E	C	U	R		A	D	D	S		K	I	E	V
E	S	T	I	M	A	T	E		T	R	A	N	C	E
			S	A	F	E		P	L	A	N	E	T	S
R	O	D	E	N	T		P	O	E	M	S			
A	D	O		S	E	L	L	S		P	A	L	M	S
P	O	M	P		R	I	O	T	S		S	O	O	N
T	R	E	A	T		T	Y	S	O	N		P	O	I
			R	O	P	E	S		D	E	S	E	R	T
E	C	U	A	D	O	R		S	A	G	E			
D	A	N	S	O	N		C	A	S	A	N	O	V	A
I	N	T	O		G	R	A	B		T	O	X	I	C
C	O	I	L		H	E	R	E		E	R	E	C	T
T	E	E	S		O	V	E	R		D	A	N	E	S

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9/26/15

DOWN

- 1 __ in; wearing

- 2 __ nothing to do with; shun
3 Experts; pros
4 Period of relief
5 Flattened bottle
6 Queue
7 Conjunction
8 Breakfast order
9 Leg joints
10 Royal Caribbean trips
11 In this location
12 Curry & others
13 Pillar
21 Wrath
23 Counter an argument
25 First book of the bible
26 Indebted to
27 Passenger
28 Venerate
29 Juicy Fruit, e.g.
31 __ costs; no matter what
32 State one's right to
33 Piles
35 "For __ a jolly good..."

- 36 Curved bone
38 Jeans fabric
39 Actor Lowe
42 Montpelier, __
44 Day of rest
46 German capital
47 Golf term
49 Jumps
50 Plunders
51 Bridge
52 Misplace
53 Word of regret
54 Air pollution
55 Resound
56 At that time
57 Look for
60 Fla.'s neighbor



Pope Francis dolls are displayed at the World Meeting of Families souvenir store ahead of the Pope's scheduled visit in Philadelphia. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

Bobblehead, umbrella or a mug? Pope souvenirs are everywhere

JOCELYN NOVECK

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "WE SELL POPE DOLLS," blared a sign held up by a 7-Eleven worker on 42nd Street in Manhattan, directing customers to a store down the block. There, on an outdoor stand, were six plushy, squeezable popes, nestled rather incongruously among individually wrapped croissants and chocolate chip muffins. Employees stressed that the popes — \$19.99 plus tax, and over 100 sold so far — were not edible. The Phantom of Broadway souvenir store a few blocks away offered pope umbrellas, white or black, for \$29.99. A few doors down at City Souvenirs, T-shirts advertised "I (Heart) Pope Francis" for \$24.99. There were magnets of several varieties, and perhaps the ultimate papal souvenir: a Pope Francis bobblehead, made by Royal Bobbles, and selling for \$59.99.

"I ordered 24, and have sold all but five," said Samir Sabir, the store's manager. "People are really interested in all the pope items. I'm ordering more." Whether to adorn your fridge, make a sartorial statement or protect yourself from the rain, there's certainly plenty of merchandise — in stores and on the street, from licensed and unlicensed vendors — to help mark and remember Pope Francis' historic U.S. visit. In Washington, where the pontiff made his first U.S. stop, Victor Wondu was selling pins and flags earlier this week at the Apostolic Nunciature, where the pope was staying. Some pins said, "I (Heart) Pope Francis"; others said "I was there! Pope Francis USA" (the top seller). Wondu, a freelance artist from District Heights, Maryland, said the pins were designed by a friend, for \$5 each or three for \$10. Flags were \$10 each. □

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- Plat. Plus NY 52 ov \$54K

PLATINUM Season

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Oceanfront \$27,500
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Plat. Plus Holiday 51 OV \$46k
Plat. Plus NY 52 OV \$54K

GOLD Season

Oceanside \$9900
Oceanview \$9K
Oceanfront \$14,500
3 BEDRM OV \$17K

Marriott Aruba Ocean club

GOLD Season
2B Ocean view \$9K
2B Oceanfront \$14500
1B Oceanfront \$8500

PLATINUM Season

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Avianca	588-0059
Aruba Airlines	583-8300
Jet Blue	588-2244
Surinam	582-7896
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24/7

Report recommends expanding SeaWorld killer whale tanks

JULIE WATSON

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A state government report released Friday recommends allowing SeaWorld to expand its killer whale facility at its San Diego park, outraging environmentalists who say the larger tanks could be used to breed more orcas to be kept in captivity.

The staff of the California Coastal Commission made the recommendations ahead of the regulatory board's Oct. 8 meeting where it is scheduled to vote on SeaWorld's permit request for the expansion. The staff recommends attaching nine conditions to the permit that include requiring SeaWorld to not house newly captured orcas at its San Diego location.

Tens of thousands of people have written to the commission in opposition of the plans, calling the expansion a marketing ploy to boost its plummeting marine-theme park attendance and not address their belief that orcas should not be in captivity at all. Attendance has dropped since the release of the popular 2013 documentary "Blackfish," which suggested SeaWorld's treatment of captive orcas provokes violent behavior. Some environmentalists fear the bigger tanks will be



In this Nov. 30, 2006, file photo, a group of onlookers watch through the glass as a killer whale passes by while swimming in a display tank at SeaWorld in San Diego.

used by SeaWorld to breed more orcas.

"This is not limiting them in any way. In fact, this would do the opposite," said Sara Wan, a former commissioner who now works as a consultant for the Animal Defense Legal Fund. "They could breed all the orcas they want with this facility and ship them all over the world."

As part of its expansion, SeaWorld proposes demolishing portions of its 1995 "Shamu" killer whale facility, which included a 1.7 million gallon (6.5 million liter)

pool. In its place would be a 5.2 million gallon (20 million liter) pool and a smaller 450,000 gallon (1.7 million liter) pool. There would be no changes to seating at the existing stadium. SeaWorld says in its proposal that the orca population housed at the new facility would not significantly increase.

The nine conditions would not restrict the breeding program. Under the conditions, SeaWorld could not house any orcas captured in the wild after February 2014 at its San Diego loca-

tion, with the exception of rescued killer whales approved by one or more government agencies for rehabilitation or deemed by one or more governmental agencies as unfit for release into the wild.

It also could not use any genetic material from wild whales caught after February 2014. The conditions would only apply to its San Diego park, since the coastal commission only has jurisdiction over that location.

SeaWorld says it would


agree to those conditions and has not collected a killer whale in more than 35 years. About 80 percent of the killer whales in its care were born at SeaWorld parks or other zoos.

The project, called "Blue World," would open in 2018 if approved. SeaWorld also has promised to fund additional research on the animals along with programs to protect ocean health and whales in the wild.

The company, based in Orlando, Florida, said the renovations had been in the works for some time and were not in response to the documentary "Blackfish." The company's stock has fallen 50 percent over the past two years, and attendance at the original SeaWorld, in San Diego, has lagged behind its other theme parks. Legislators in California also proposed banning performances featuring orcas, which kept criticism of SeaWorld in the news. The company has blamed competition from other theme parks for its overall drop in attendance of about 2 percent.

SeaWorld says the animals are well treated and their shows help garner support for conservation and research.

The company sent the commission tens of thousands of post cards from people supporting the expansion of the killer whale environment. □



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Pope Francis to release album called 'Wake Up!'

NEW YORK (AP) — Pope Francis is becoming Pop Star Francis: The religious leader is set to release a pop-rock album.

Believe Digital, the label releasing the album, announced Friday that "Wake Up!" will be available on Nov. 27. The album will feature extracts from Pope Francis' speeches in various languages, including English, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

Pope Francis premiered the first single called "Wake Up! Go! Go! Forward!" on Rolling Stone's website on Friday. The album is avail-

able for pre-order on iTunes.

The album's 11 tracks range from pop to rock to Latin sounds. Some of the album's proceeds will be donated to "a support fund for refugees," according to a news release.

Pope Francis is currently on a visit to the United States. □



This CD cover image released by Believe Digital, shows "Wake Up!" The album will feature extracts from Pope Francis' speeches in various languages, including English, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. It will be available on Nov. 27.

Associated Press



In this image made by Felix & Paul Studios and provided by the Clinton Global Initiative, former U.S. President Bill Clinton sits at his desk in New York in part of a seven-minute movie made with virtual reality techniques.

Associated Press

Bill Clinton appears in virtual-reality movie on Africa

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As world leaders descend on the United Nations this weekend, former President Bill

Clinton will be taking them to East Africa through virtual reality.

Viewers with special goggles will be able to follow Clinton's travels in eight minutes. Footage was captured last spring with 360-degree cameras. What you see through the goggles changes as you move your head left, right and even up or down.

Virtual reality is no longer the domain of just science fiction and video games. You feel as though you're sitting in the same living room as Clinton chats with an entrepreneur in Karatu, Tanzania, who sells solar-powered products. You appear to share a tent as Clinton and his daughter, Chelsea, fit people in Nairobi, Kenya, with hearing aids. The movie also takes you to a Nairobi classroom that is part of a Clinton-backed initiative to improve education for young women and girls. It starts and ends with Clinton talking to you from his desk in New York.

Clinton plans to unveil the movie in New York on Sunday at the annual meeting of the Clinton Foundation's Clinton Global Initiative. Heads of states, corporate executives and civil-society leaders in attendance will be able to watch using special goggles — Samsung's Gear VR headset

— that will be set up in the main lounge.

"The ability of technology like this to bring people together from around the world has the potential to encourage everyone, no matter where they are, to be more engaged in global issues and how to solve them," Clinton said in a statement to The Associated Press.

"I enjoyed being able to bring the viewer with me to see the important work being done on the ground in Africa. I hope everyone who watches the film will feel compelled to make a positive difference in their own way."

Rob Holzer of Matter Unlimited, the creative agency behind the movie, said that when people experience the projects rather than just hear about them, they're more likely to volunteer and donate.

The movie's co-director, Paul Raphael of Felix & Paul Studios, said he was drawn by the immersive nature of virtual reality.

"It's not something you look at in front of you," he said. "It's something you visit, something no film or YouTube video can replicate." The movie will be distributed for free to owners of Gear VR, including a new \$99 model Samsung announced Thursday for shipment in November. □

Judge grants Jenner's request to legally change name, gender

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)

— She proclaimed her new name on the cover of Vanity Fair magazine, but Caitlyn Jenner's transition from her old identity as Bruce Jenner is finally official.

A judge on Friday approved Jenner's request to formally change her name and gender, marking another milestone in the Olympic gold medalist's public transition as a transgender woman.

Jenner, 65, sought the change "to better match my identity," according to court filings she submitted earlier this month.

Superior Court Judge Gerald Rosenberg granted the petition during a brief hearing. Jenner did not attend but was represented by two lawyers.

The approval means Jenner's new name will be Caitlyn Marie Jenner, re-



In this July 15, 2015 file photo, Caitlyn Jenner accepts the Arthur Ashe award for courage at the ESPY Awards at the Microsoft Theater, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

placing her birth name of William Bruce Jenner. She will now be able to get documents — including a driver's license and Social Security card — that conform to her new identity. Jenner publicly transitioned to a woman in recent months after revealing her intentions to journalist Diane Sawyer in a televised

special and debuting her new name and look on the cover of Vanity Fair magazine.

Some details that accompanied her petition to legally change her name and gender were redacted after Jenner cited privacy concerns and threats she says she has received during her transition. □



American actor Johnny Depp, right, poses for a photo with a woman that is receiving hearing devices in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015.

Associated Press

Musicians help give hearing devices to Rio de Janeiro residents

The Associated Press

Johnny Depp, Alice Cooper and Joe Perry helped give people the gift of hearing while in Rio de Janeiro for the Rock in Rio music festival.

The artists, members of the Hollywood Vampires rock group, together with the Starkey Hearing Foundation and other celebrities, helped fit customized hearing devices on Thursday on 218 Rio residents of all ages, some of whom had lived in silence for most of their lives.

Depp who was accompanied by his wife, Amber Heard, described the experience as "moving." Also present was Brazilian bossa nova legend Sergio Mendes.

Though a handful of residents with new hearing devices were to attend the Hollywood Vampires show Friday night, Cooper joked they should start by listening to something softer —

like Mendes' songs.

Ana Maria Marques, who hadn't heard a single noise for years, said she was euphoric with her new hearing device and spoke clearly about the way she felt.

Yet for the children who were born deaf, they will now have the opportunity to learn how to speak, explained William F. Austin, founder of the Starkey Hearing Technologies and Foundation.

"Children don't develop speech because the hearing must come first," Austin said.

Perry, who helped set up a hearing device for one of those children, said he had no words to describe the experience.

"The impact is astounding," he said. "So to make that available to kids whether they end up liking music or not doesn't matter, it's just the fact that they can hear again." □



In this May 1, 2015 file photo, Cecile McLorin Salvant performs at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival in New Orleans, La.

Associated Press

Jazz singer Salvant proves breakout success is no fluke

CHARLES J. GANS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Cecile McLorin Salvant vaulted into the top ranks of female jazz vocalists with her Grammy-nominated 2013 U.S. debut, "WomanChild," displaying impressive vocal chops as she put her own spin on obscure old jazz and blues compositions.

Her new album, "For One to Love," proves her breakout success was no fluke. Although the 26-year-old Salvant still considers herself "first and foremost an interpreter of songs," the project reflects her evolution as a songwriter with five originals among the 12 tracks.

Salvant showcases her vocal range as she deftly shifts tempos and changes dynamics — going from breathless feathery highs to full-voiced soulful lows — to spin out tales of unrequited love.

"The songs I wrote are directly about situations that I've been in — in terms of love — the times that it hasn't worked out and the times that it was beautiful," Salvant said in a recent interview. "There's definitely a feminist bent to the whole thing."

But Salvant provocatively includes a sexist song from the '60s — Burt Bacharach and Hal David's "Wives

and Lovers," which advises that wives need to stay attractive and attentive to their husbands lest they have an affair with "girls at the office." On "WomanChild," she covered a 1930s racial tune "You Bring Out the Savage in Me" by singer Valaida Snow.

"Those songs may seem outdated and absurd on first listen, but actually a lot of those things still exist," said Salvant. "When I sing 'Wives and Lovers,' I'm posing a question about how much are we subject to upholding a certain standard of beauty to be acceptable in society and our jobs." Salvant says her new album has a more developed band sound after touring for 2 1/2 years with pianist Aaron Diehl's trio, evident in the intricate nuanced arrangements of "Something's Coming" from "West Side Story" and "The Trolley Song" from "Meet Me in St. Louis."

"Much of my admiration for Cecile comes from her choice in repertoire, where there are no limitations in origin or period," said Diehl, a rising jazz piano star, in an email. "Whether it's a blues from the 1920s, an art song by Leonard Bernstein, or her own original composition, she's simply interested in finding material rich in both lyrical and musical

content."

Salvant says her unconventional repertoire reflects her background. The daughter of a Haitian father and French-Guadeloupean mother, she grew up in Miami, where she took classical voice and piano lessons. After high school, she headed to France to study political science and law, and also took classical voice lessons at a conservatory.

Her mother suggested that she take some jazz classes for fun, and her teacher, saxophonist-clarinetist Jean-Francois Bonnel, immediately saw her potential. Bonnel introduced her to old jazz and blues vocal recordings, and soon she was singing with his group at European festivals. She released her first CD, "Cecile," in 2010. That same year, she won the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocals Competition.

"Cecile is like manna from heaven," said Wynton Marsalis, who first presented the singer with his Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra in 2012. "Cecile has great pitch, a unique style that encompasses many singers and she's extremely humble and studious. She has an original vision ... and I have tremendous respect for her." □

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'The Keeping Room' shows violence, feminism in Civil War

LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actress Brit Marling had never read anything like "The Keeping Room." It's not often that wartime films focus on the women left behind, and not the men saving them.

The script by first-time screenwriter Julia Hart tells the story of three Southerners — two sisters and a slave — who are forced to defend their homestead when a pair of malevolent Union soldiers descend on the property near the end of the Civil War. It's both a thriller and a meditative reflection on the plight of women during wartime, and it landed Hart a spot on the 2012 Black List — a prestigious industry round-up of the year's best unproduced screenplays.

A former schoolteacher, Hart was inspired when visiting friends in the South and heard a story about two Civil War-era skeletons that were buried in their yard. She worked backward to craft a story about how those bodies got there.

"I read it twice in one sitting," said Marling in a recent interview. "Then I went chasing after it."

Under Daniel Barber's ("Harry Brown") direction, Marling would take on the role of Augusta, the de facto head of the household, with Hailee Steinfeld playing her younger sister Louise and newcomer Muna Otaru as their slave Mad.

At the beginning of the film, now playing in limited release and expanding nationwide throughout October, the girls are struggling to just keep themselves fed as supplies on the farm dwindle. Then Augusta unwittingly incites ire in two rogue Union soldiers (Sam Worthington, Kyle Soller) she encounters who follow her home intent on raping, pillaging and killing.

"(The women) have to defend themselves and do it in a way that's plausible," said Marling, who's also a writer, director and producer. "Nobody is being



In this Monday, Sept. 8, 2014 file photo, Brit Marling, from left, Muna Otaru and Hailee Steinfeld attend the premiere of "The Keeping Room" on day 5 of the Toronto International Film Festival at the TIFF Bell Lightbox, in Toronto.

Associated Press

asked to be impenetrable. "There are no karate kicks in stilettos. The girls cry, they break down, they get hurt and they're scared," she continued. "Being brave doesn't mean not being scared. It means being scared and moving through it anyway. They're all very vulnerable in it. They fall apart and put themselves back together."

The story is told with a 21st century savvy, combining a revisionist feminist bent

and a reverence to the past. It doesn't hold back on distressing language or imagery in depicting their harrowing battle to survive. The relationships are complicated by the reality of slavery and racism in the period.

"The stuff that my character goes through and the brutality of some of the language was not easy for me to get through," Steinfeld acknowledged. "It's very tastefully done. It's very real

to what happened then." Marling thinks the film is honest about the dark origins of America.

"It's an incredibly prescient movie in that this country is in some ways hopefully waking up to racism," she said.

In this contained story, the bond between the three women is only strengthened.

"They reach a really beautiful place trying to survive with each other. The insti-

tution of racism falls away and they become family to each other. They become three sisters," Marling said. "They would defend each other to the ends of the earth."

"The Keeping Room" debuted at the 2014 Toronto Film Festival, and it took a bit of time before the independently produced feature found a distributor in Drafthouse Films.

Beyond the story itself, Marling thinks the film is part of a larger trend in the industry where women are taking the initiative to write roles for other women and the movies are actually getting made.

She's done this a few times already with "Sound of My Voice" and "Another Earth," in which she also acted.

"I don't think it's any accident that stories have mostly been about white heterosexual men because they have been the ones who've had the position and power and influence to tell stories. You can't begrudge any of that. Now women are finding a room of their own and writing their own scripts and making their own movies" said Marling.

She added that successful films with big female casts like "Pitch Perfect" and "Bridesmaids" show that "men and women are interested in watching stories about women. I think we're in a really exciting time." □

Popular returning TV shows match Google interest

NEW YORK (AP) — The anticipation among television viewers about new fall shows was foreshadowed by Google.

The online information company said Friday the most-searched query about fall premieres over the past week was about when Fox's "Empire" would return.

The new season debuted to 16.2 million viewers on Wednesday night, the Nielsen company said.

The two top returning shows

so far this week have been CBS' "NCIS" and "The Big Bang Theory," both with 18.2 million viewers, Nielsen said.

Both shows were also featured among the top 10 questions Google received on premieres, the company said. Google didn't release numbers on how many people made these searches, but the company said there are roughly 3 billion Google searches on various topics made worldwide each day.

The second most searched-for premiere date on Google was for CBS' "Criminal Minds," which hasn't debuted yet, with "The Big Bang Theory" being third, the company said.

NBC's "Chicago Fire" has also attracted Google attention, along with CBS' "Madam Secretary" and ABC's "Scandal," "Grey's Anatomy" and "Nashville." The "Empire" ratings were closely watched by the industry in general to see if

the sensation created by last winter's debut of the music industry soap would continue.

This week's viewership was second only to the season finale last spring, which had 17.6 million viewers.

The show is also expected to gain when time-delayed viewing is factored in.

Google said that over the past month, the television programs that were most searched-for for any reason were ABC's "Dancing With the Stars." □

Haunted Houses, Creepy Mazes and Other Halloween Attractions

BETH J. HARPAZ
AP Travel Editor

Escape rooms, zombie fights and carnival side-show freaks are a few of the themes popping up at this year's Halloween attractions.

But if you're not up for extreme frights offered by hard-core haunted houses

then ramp up thrills and chills at night on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Many Six Flags parks have child-friendly activities during the day, then transition to nighttime Fright Fests, with creepy roaming creatures, haunted houses and scare zones.

At Cedar Point in San-

partnered with Robin Cowie, producer of "The Blair Witch Project," to create "Unearthed," about a woman named Scarlett who comes back to life after a construction crew digs too far. Busch Gardens Williamsburg gets scary with five Terror-tories and seven haunted houses.

in Atlanta; 13th Floor, San Antonio, Texas; Bennett's Curse, Baltimore; Erebus, Pontiac, Michigan; Bates Motel, Philadelphia; The Darkness, St. Louis; Cutting Edge, Dallas; Spookywoods, Greensboro, North Carolina; House of Torment in Chicago; Hex House, Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Fear

and TV shows: The Walking Dead, Insidious, Crimson Peak, Halloween, This Is The End and Alien vs. Predator. Crimson Peak, for example, is inspired by a horror movie being released in mid-October by director Guillermo del Toro, taking visitors on a journey with the main character, Edith Cushing, to a haunted estate in the English countryside. The Walking Dead maze is based on season five of the AMC series.

Universal Orlando, which is marking its 25th year of Halloween Horror Nights, has nine haunted houses, including "Freddy vs. Jason," "The Purge," "An American Werewolf in London" and "The Walking Dead." The Florida park also has five scare zones.

REGIONAL

Eastern State Penitentiary, the historic former prison in Philadelphia, is celebrating its 25th season hosting Halloween madness. Its massive haunted house, "Terror Behind the Walls," has been redesigned for the anniversary.

In Reading, Pennsylvania, Shocktoberfest offers Zombie World and Prison of the Dead Escape, which requires guests to escape from multiple rooms. Because November's calendar has a Friday the 13th in it, the attraction will stay open through that date.

In Pittsburgh, ScareHouse attractions include The Summoning, a haunted attraction set in October 1932 that tells a story of secret societies, rituals and demonic inhabitants.

Sixteen miles west of Detroit, the Hush Haunted Attraction's Detroit Experiment Facility brings visitors through the collapsed ceilings, overgrown greenery and flickering dungeons of a science facility where experiments have gone wrong.

Freakshow in Wabash Valley, Illinois, introduces guests to sideshow freaks including evil magicians, mimes and clowns.

Wisconsin FearGrounds in Waukesha, Wisconsin, just outside Milwaukee, offers three haunted houses. □



This undated image provided by Haunted Overload shows a scene from the attraction in Lee, N. H. Haunted Overload tops this year's list of best attractions published by HauntWorld.com. The outdoor haunt in an eerie forest setting includes monsters, sound and light. The attraction was also named America's scariest display in ABC's "Great Halloween Fright Fight."

(Artifact Images/Haunted Overload via AP)

and nighttime theme park events, there are lots of low-key alternatives, with some venues avoiding scary stuff altogether. Disney World in Florida hosts Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party, with a similar Mickey's Halloween Party at Disneyland in Anaheim, California. Holiday World in Santa Claus, Indiana, offers 12 acres of corn mazes, a talking pumpkin, a laser light show and more. An overnight stay at Great Wolf lodges includes Howl-O-Ween activities like trick-or-treat trails and a Monster Bash dance party. SeaWorld San Diego's Halloween Spooktacular includes "Sesame Street's Who Said Boo?"

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HAUNTWORLD'S TOP 15

HauntWorld.com's list of top 15 haunted houses is topped by Haunted Overload, in Lee, New Hampshire, described by HauntWorld as "an original outdoor haunt in a class of its own" with "handmade sets, gigantic monsters and spellbinding costumes with spectacular sound and lighting ... set in an eerie dark New England forest." Haunted Overload also won a \$50,000 prize, named America's scariest display by ABC's "The Great Halloween Fright Fight."

The other 14 listed by HauntWorld are Headless Horseman, in Ulster Park, New York; The 13th Gate in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; the Dent Schoolhouse in Cincinnati; Netherworld

Experience in Cleveland.

UNIVERSAL'S HALLOWEEN HORROR NIGHTS

At Universal theme parks in Orlando, Florida, and Los Angeles, Halloween Horror Nights draw thousands of visitors, ranking among the parks' busiest times of year. The experience is worthy of Hollywood, inspired by famous horror films, sci-fi shows and stories, with movie-quality special effects, technology, sets, costumes and makeup.

At Universal Hollywood in Los Angeles, the extravaganza includes a new "terror tram" experience through Universal's film studio back lot themed on "The Purge," a film about a 12-hour period in which crime is legal. There are also six themed mazes based on movies